

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

1937

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

ROCHDALE:

J. WIGLEY & SONS LTD., PRINTERS, ACKER STREET

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CONTENTS.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT :

A	PAGE
Area	10
Ambulance Facilities	15
Analyst's Report	51
Ante-Natal Clinic	16, 25
Anti-Toxin and Sera	54
Arsenobenzene Compounds	62
Atmospheric Pollution	40—42
Accredited Milk	49

B.	
Bacteriological Examinations	16
Births Registered	10
Births, Notification Act	21
Bakehouses	39
Birch Hill Hospital	19
Boarded-Out Children	30

C.	
Cancer	13
Child Life Protection	30
Closet Accommodation	32
Conversion of Pail-closets and W.W.C.	32—36
Clinics—Infant Welfare	16, 22
Tuberculosis	16
Venereal Diseases	16
School Medical	16
Orthopædic and X-Ray	16, 27
Ante-Natal	16, 25
Post-Natal	16, 25
Consultant Services	27
Clothing—Provision of	59
Common Lodging Houses	45

D.	
Deaths Registered	8, 10
Dairies and Cowsheds	45
Disinfection	62
Dispensary, Tuberculosis	16, 57
District Nursing Association	13
Drainage and Sewerage	32
Disinfestation	44
Diphtheria Immunisation	24, 54
Dental Service	27
Dentures—Provision of	27, 59
Diphtheria	53

F.	
Food Supply, General	45
Foodstuffs destroyed	46
Food & Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928	50
Factory and Workshops Acts	39

H.	
Hospital Accommodation	18
Housing	43—44
Health Visitors' Work	21
Hospital—Marland	53
Health Propaganda	20
Hospital Fees	28

I.	PAGE
Inhabited Houses	8
Infantile Mortality	11
Infectious Diseases	52
Isolation Hospital	53
Infant Welfare Centres	16, 22
Illegitimate Children	10
Institutional Accommodation	18
Immunisation	24, 54

L.	
Laboratory Facilities	16

M.	
Mental Defectives	15
Municipal Midwifery Service	14
Maternal Mortality	8, 29
Maternity Homes	17
Maternity Home, Birch Hill Hospital	28
Mid-day Meals	24
Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915	48
Milk—Tuberculous	48
Milk Shops	45
Meat and Food Supply	46—47
Marland Hospital	18
Medical and Midwifery Assistance	28
Midwives	14
Milk and Food Assistance Scheme	23
Maternity Outfits	27
Medical Out-Relief, Poor Law	15

N.	
Nursing Homes... ..	17
Notification of Births Act	21
Nursing Arrangements	13
Nuisances, Removal of	37, 38
National Health Insurance	9
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	23

O.	
Offensive Trades	39
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	30
Orthopædic Treatment	27

P.	
Poor Law Relief	9
Population	10
Pail Closet Conversion... ..	32—36
Pathological Examinations	16, 62, 70
Post Natal Clinic	16, 25, 29
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	21
Public Cleansing	37

R.	
Rateable Value	1
Respiratory Diseases	3
Rag Flock Acts	3
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919	3
Rivers and Streams	3

CONTENTS—*Continued.*

S.	PAGE	U	PAGE
Sanitary Inspection	37	Unhealthy Areas	44
Scavenging	32	Unemployment	9
Shops Act, 1934	38		
Smoke Abatement	39	V.	
Slaughter Houses	46	Vaccination	55, 56
Staff	4	Venereal Diseases	60—62
Statistical Summary	8	Venereal Diseases Clinics	16, 61
Still Births	8, 10	Vital Statistics... ..	8, 10
Springfield Sanatorium	18, 59		
Scarlet Fever	53	W.	
Swimming Baths and Pools	42	Water Supply	31
		Workshops	39
T.		Waste Water Closets	34
Tuberculosis Order, 1925	47	Wolstenholme Hall	59
Tuberculosis—Mortality	57		
Notifications	56, 57	X. Y. Z	
Dispensary	57	X-Ray Examinations	27, 59
Residential Treatment	59	Zymotic Diseases	12
Nourishments	59		
Tuberculous Milk	48		
APPENDIX, Tables I.—XIII.			64—76

II.—SCHOOL MEDICAL REPORT :

A.	PAGE	N.	PAGE
Adenoids	87	Nursery Schools	91
		Nutrition—Classification of	99
B.			
Blind Children	95	O.	
		Open Air School	90
C.		Orthopaedic Clinic	93, 102
Cost of Medical Inspection	96		
Children and Young Persons Act, 1933	95	R.	
Clog Fund	94	Retarded Children	91
Convalescent Home	94		
D.		S.	
Dental Report	88	Staff	83
Diphtheria Immunisation	89	School Premises	83
Deaf Children	95	Scholars	84
		School Nurses—Work of	89
E.		Special Schools—Blind, Deaf and Epileptic, &c.	95
Eye Diseases	87	Speech Training Class	91
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	86, 102		
Employment of Young Children	95	T.	
Epileptic Children	95	Tonsils	86, 87
Exceptional Children	100	Tuberculosis	87
I.		U.	
Inspection—Medical	84, 85, 86, 97	Uncleanliness	86, 103
Dental	88, 103	Unemployment Assistance Board	95
Defects found	98		
Infectious Diseases	89	V.	
		Voluntary Associations—	
M.		Co-operation with	94
Minor Ailments... ..	86, 101	Vision	88, 101
Meals—Necessitous Children	92		
Medical Inspection—Cost	96		
Milk—Provision of	93		
Mental Defectives	92, 104		
APPENDIX TABLES I.—V.			97—104

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, DECEMBER, 1937.

*Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer,
Administrative Tuberculosis Officer, Medical Superintendent of Corporation Hospitals :*
JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health,
Clinical Tuberculosis Officer,
V.D. Medical Officer :*
ALBERT H. HEYWORTH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Principal Medical Officer :
(Birch Hill Hospital)
HARRY CROSSLEY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officer :
NORAH MILLS, M.D., CH.B.

Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity Scheme
KENNETH A. EVANS, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (ROTUN)

Assistant Resident Medical Officers :
(Birch Hill Hospital)
A. REEVES, M.B., CH.B., B.A.O.
A. B. WHITE, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S.

*Assistant Medical Officer for Child Welfare,
Ven. Dis. Medical Officer,
Assistant School Medical Officer (Part Time) :*
LOIS A. L. KIPPEN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Lay Administrative Officer :
FRED SCHOFIELD†

Dental Surgeons (Schools) :
A. C. WALKER, L.D.S.
H. P. GLESDALE, L.D.S.

Meat and Dairy Inspector :
S. HENNINGS.†||

*Chief Sanitary Inspector,
Inspector Food and Drugs Acts :*
ALBERT E. DUNCAN.‡

Health Visitors (Tuberculosis) :
Miss C. HOLT*† and Mrs. M. L. GALLIMORE*.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :
A. TURNER‡||, A. SYMONS‡||, G. DOUGLAS, R. TAYLOR‡||.

School Nurses :
Misses M. INGHAM* E. MAXIM*, M. STEPHENSON*†||, D. M. W. FRENCH*†||.

Health Visitors and Infant Protection Visitors
Misses N. DIXON*†, L. LORD*†, E. JOHNSON*†||, S. M. CHILDE*†||, GREENWOOD*†|| and W. ROBERTS

Dental Attendants:
G. PETRIE, V. M. BROWN.

Hospital Matrons : **Miss H. COPELAND*†§ (Birch Hill).**
Miss G. M. WILKINSON* (Marland).
Miss E. BURGESS* (Springfield).

Municipal Midwives : **C. COUPE†, G. CUSHEN†, M. C. GROARKE†, A. BURROWS†, M. WOOD†, M. BEARD†, H. CUNNINGHAM†, D. A. HOLDEN†.**

PART TIME OFFICERS.

Visiting Surgeon (Birch Hill Hospital):
J. C. JEFFERSON, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Laryngologist :
V. F. LAMBERT, F.R.C.S., M.B., CH.B.

Obstetric Consultant :
E. A. GERRARD, M.B., CH.B., M.C.O.G.,

Aurist (Sch. Med. Service) :
W. R. CAMMOCK, F.R.C.S.

Pathologist :
J. S. POOLEY, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

District Poor Law Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators :
W. H. CARSE, M.B., C.M.
J. G. STANDING, M.B., C.M.
A. LOMAS, M.B., CH.B.
H. G. RAMSHOTTON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

Dental Surgeon (Hospitals) :
H. SENIOR ASHWORTH, L.D.S.

Public Analyst :
S. E. MELLING, F.I.C.

Veterinary Surgeon :
ROBERT HERBERT, M.R.C.V.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :
PHILIP A. HARRY, M.D., D.P.H.

Vaccination Officers :
H. CAMPBELL, W. M. LAW, H. BOYD, F. SCHOFIELD.

Radiologist:
ALAN RICHARDSON, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

§ Certificate of Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.

|| New Health Visitor's Certificate (Royal Sanitary Institute).

* Certificate of General Nursing.

† C.M.B. Certificate of Midwifery.

‡ Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate, (Sanitary Inspector).

|| Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate, (Meat and Foods).

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of
the County Borough of Rochdale.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Sixth Annual Report on the Health Conditions of the Borough, and the Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

The Report has been prepared on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health's Circular 1561, which states that the Report should contain as a minimum :—

- (a) Information with regard to the matters specified in the Appendix 1 to the Circular, set out as far as possible in the order there given, under the main heads :—

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area ;
General Provision of Health Services in the Area ;
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area ;
Housing ;
Inspection and Supervision of Food ;
Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

- (b) A statement of any noteworthy conditions prejudicial to the health of the area which have not been adequately dealt with in Special Reports of the Medical Officer of Health.
- (c) A statement of any special action taken during the year in the area to arouse public interest in the prevention of ill health, or the importance of early treatment.
- (d) A summary of important Special Reports, if any, made during the year, including those which have been separately transmitted to the proper authorities.

The first portion of this Report is, as usual, statistical in character. The birth-rate shows a slight increase as compared with the last two years.

The death-rate also shows an increase as compared with last year and with the average for the last ten years. The influenza epidemic at the beginning of the year probably accounted for much of this increase.

Following the decrease last year in the infantile mortality rate from 85 per thousand in 1935 to 69 per thousand, the rate this year shows a marked fall to 53 per thousand, which constitutes a record low figure for Rochdale. The only figures approaching this are those for the years 1930 and 1931, namely, 66 per thousand live births.

The maternal mortality rate is again higher than had been hoped in view of the recent succession of good years. A review of the deaths, however, does not show any evidence of neglect or failure to provide sufficient service for the patients concerned.

The only notable epidemic in the Borough during the year was an epidemic of influenza which spread from the South of England and began to affect this area in December, 1936, persisting throughout the early months of the current year.

The compulsorily notifiable infectious diseases showed a decrease in incidence in comparison both with last year and with the average for the previous five years. This decrease was manifest in respect of practically all the individual diseases. Whooping cough, chicken-pox and measles, which are not compulsorily notifiable, were also below the average for the past few years.

Amongst the more important developments in the Public Health Service during the year may be noted :—

- (1) The commencement of the Municipal Midwifery Service ;
- (2) Further extension of the Maternity Scheme, including increased ancillary services in connection with free milk and meals and dental attendance ;
- (3) Registration of hawkers and all premises for the storage and preparation of food ;
- (4) Extension of Closet Conversion Scheme to include waste-water closets under the 1936 Public Health Act ;
- (5) Official representations in connection with Slum Clearance Areas were completed during the year, leaving only Improvement Areas and individually unfit houses to be dealt with. No commencement was, however, made in connection with abatement of overcrowding as such ;
- (6) Re-organisation of the domestic staff at Birch Hill Hospital ;
- (7) Commencement of work on the new operating theatre block, canteen and nurses' lecture hall at Birch Hill Hospital ;
- (8) Preparation of the scheme for re-organisation of the Ambulance Service at Birch Hill Hospital ;
- (9) Inauguration of the National Fitness Campaign.

In submitting this Report I have again to acknowledge the encouragement and support which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

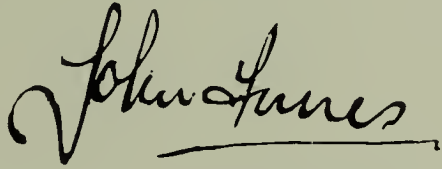
I have also to acknowledge the loyal co-operation of the members of my staff in the various departments.

I am again indebted to Mr. Schofield, Lay Administrative Officer, and to Mr. Duncan, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for much assistance in the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Jones", with a horizontal line underneath.

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
May 20th, 1938.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1937.

Area (in acres)	9,553
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1937	91,940
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	25,487
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2,104
Rateable Value,	£557,927

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births. —Legitimate	1023	518	505
Illegitimate	70	42	28
	<u>1093</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>533</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.9

Still-births 55—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 47.9

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	1415	715	700

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes 7.

Puerperal Sepsis 3 } Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 6.1
Other Puerperal Causes 4 }

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births 53
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 53
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 57

	No. of Deaths		Rate per 1,000 of population	
	1937	1936	1937	1936
Measles	—	1	—	0.01
Whooping Cough	3	3	0.03	0.03
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4	8	0.04	0.08
Other Principal Zymotic Diseases	4	3	0.04	0.03
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	164	185	1.78	1.98
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	50	49	0.54	0.53
Other Tuberculous Diseases	14	17	0.15	0.18

Poor Law Relief.

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief on December 31st, 1937, and the amount of cash payments during the year, compared with the corresponding figures for 1936, has been kindly supplied by the Public Assistance Officer :—

	During the year ended Dec. 31st,	
	1937	1936
No. of Persons in receipt of Institutional Relief	*391	*412
Amount paid as Domiciliary Relief :—		
(a) Able-bodied Persons relieved on account of unemployment	£6,342	£19,786
(b) Poor Relief (aged and infirm, etc., persons)	£27,094	£17,670
No. of Persons in receipt of Domiciliary Relief (excluding vagrants)	*2,039	*2,450

* Statistics represent last week in December only.

National Health Insurance.

The Clerk to the Insurance Committee has kindly supplied the following information as to the number of insured persons in the Borough and the cost of medicines supplied to insured population :—

	Year ended Dec. 31st,	
	1937	1936
(1) Total number of Insured Persons in the borough on October 1st	50,385	49,985
(2) Number of Prescriptions made up for the Insured Population	245,245	243,926
(3) Annual Cost of Drugs, Medicines and Appliances for Insured Population	£8,701	£8,363

Unemployment.

We are indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information as to unemployment in the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining district of Wardle. Figures for Rochdale only are not available. The average number of persons on the Register during the year ended December 31st, 1937, is shown in the Table below, in comparison with the averages for the preceding three years :—

Year	Total	Men	Women	Juveniles
1934	7,152	4,709	2,188	255
1935	6,660	4,674	1,772	214
1936	5,307	4,150	1,037	120
1937	3,985	3,168	737	80

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area and Population of the Borough.

The Borough of Rochdale has an area of 9,553 acres and, according to the report of the Registrar-General, the estimated resident population at mid-year 1937 was 91,940, as compared with 93,250 the preceding year. The Census returns of April, 1931, show the population as 90,278, but since that date the Borough has been extended by the inclusion of the districts of Norden and Bamford with a population of about 4,000.

A perusal of Table I., Appendix, shows a continued low birth-rate together with a comparatively high death-rate in this Borough. This may be considered as an important contributing factor in the declining population indicated in the above estimated figures.

Live Births.

There were 1,093 live births (males 560, females 533) registered as belonging to this Borough, as compared with 1,096 in the year 1936, and an average of 1,205 during the ten years 1926-35.

Illegitimate Births numbered 70, or 6.4 per cent. of the total live births.

Still Births.

These registered a total of 55, as against 42 the previous year and 76 in 1935.

The Live Birth-rate continued at a low even figure and was equal to 11.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 11.8 the previous year, and an average during the ten preceding years of 13.2 per 1,000. In the 125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London, the corresponding rate was 14.9 per 1,000, while the rate for the whole of England and Wales was also 14.9 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths.

There were 1,415 deaths (males 715, females 700) registered and assigned to this Borough, as compared with 1,408 during the previous year and an average of 1,349 for the ten years 1926-35.

Comparative figures as to age periods of persons dying in 1937 and 1936 are given below :—

Year	Total deaths	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-65 yrs.	65 years and over
1937	1,415	58	21	13	32	600	691
1936	1,408	76	22	16	35	541	718

The Death-rate from all causes was 15.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 15.1 in 1936 and an average of 14.7 during the preceding ten years. During the months of January and February Influenza was prevalent in the district and was certified as the cause of 67 deaths, compared with 19 deaths the previous year.

The chief causes of death during the year are given below, in comparison with the previous year :—

						Year 1937		Year 1936
						<hr/>		<hr/>
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	67	...	19
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	64	...	66
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	165	...	171
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	65	...	51
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	388	...	389
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	110	...	132
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	80	...	101
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	75	...	77
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	51	...	49
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-mature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	35	...	40
						<hr/>		<hr/>
					TOTAL ...	1,100	...	1,095
						<hr/>		<hr/>

These ten groups of diseases represent 1,100 deaths, or 77.7 per cent. of the total deaths registered during 1937.

Table II., Appendix, shows the age and sex distribution and causes of deaths in 1937, while Table I., Appendix, gives comparative mortality rates and birth-rates during the past ten years.

Infant Mortality.

With a total of 58 deaths of children under one year, representing a death-rate of 53 per 1,000 live births, the infantile mortality rate constitutes a record for Rochdale. In 1936 the corresponding figure was 69 and the decennial average 78 per 1,000 births.

Not only is the rate recorded for the past year a record for Rochdale, but it is also lower than the corresponding figure for England and Wales (58). An analysis of the figures given in Table III. of the Appendix is interesting. As has been increasingly the case in the last few years, a very considerable number of the deaths, actually 31 out of 58, or 54 per cent. in 1937 occurred in the first four weeks of life, and are mainly due to such causes as premature birth and congenital debility or deformity. Apart from these, the diseases which are responsible for the major part of infant deaths under one year of age are diseases of the respiratory system and gastro-enteritis.

There are, this year, 11 deaths from diseases of the respiratory system as compared with 17 deaths the previous year. The freedom from measles and whooping cough epidemics enjoyed by the Borough in the winter months of 1937 is reflected in these figures. It would not appear likely that such figures will be repeated in 1938 since there was, at the end of the year, evidence of a spreading epidemic of measles and whooping cough, which with their respiratory complications inevitably take toll of children under one year. There were only four deaths recorded for diarrhoea and enteritis, as compared with eight last year. The former figure is especially commendable as it shows that environmental conditions must have improved in the Borough since enteritis in young babies is essentially a disease of overcrowding and unhygienic surroundings.

Comparative Mortality and Birth Rates.

	Death-rate All Causes per 1,000 of population	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
ROCHDALE ...	15.4	11.9	53
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	12.5	14.9	62
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000) ...	11.9	15.3	55
ENGLAND AND WALES	12.4	14.9	58

These figures are corrected only for transfers and institutions and make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

Zymotic Diseases.

The principal zymotic or epidemic diseases (excluding influenza) caused 11 deaths (0.10 per 1,000 population), as compared with 15 deaths the previous year (0.15 per 1,000 population). Details are given below :—

	Year 1937	Year 1936
Typhoid Fever ...	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—
Diphtheria ...	2	3
Measles ...	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	3	3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	4	8
TOTAL ...	11	15

Respiratory Diseases.

The deaths certified as due to respiratory affections, excluding tuberculosis, number 164, as compared with 185 in the year 1936. Pneumonia was certified as the cause of 75 deaths, bronchitis 80, and other respiratory affections 9.

Cancer.

There were 87 cases of this disease admitted to Birch Hill Hospital during the year, 19 of which had already received advice or treatment at other Hospitals.

The arrangement with Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institution, Manchester, for the admission and treatment of selected cases of cancer has been continued, and during the year three cases have been referred thereto.

The number of deaths classified to this cause was 165 (males 82, females 83), as against 171 the previous year, and which are arranged in age groups as below :

Year	Total Deaths	Under 15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-55 yrs.	55-65 yrs.	65-75 yrs.	75 yrs. and over
1937	... 165	... —	... 1	... 14	... 24	... 53	... 54	... 19
1936	... 171	... —	... 1	... 8	... 29	... 41	... 69	... 23

The average annual number of deaths during the five years 1931-35 was 170. The death-rate was 1.8 per 1,000 of the population, and the previous year 1.8 per 1,000.

No special local investigations have been undertaken during the year in connection with the incidence or causation of this disease

General Provision of Health Services.

Nursing in the Home.

There has been no alteration in the arrangement for general nursing and nursing of infectious diseases as outlined in previous reports.

In certain infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, ophthalmia, measles, etc., the local authority refer selected cases to the District Nursing Association for home nursing. During the past year much valuable work in this direction has been done by the staff of that Association, as shown in the following summary kindly supplied by the Matron :—

	No. of Cases	No. of Visits
Pneumonia (excl. bronchial or with measles)	88	1,381
Tuberculosis	18	1,004
Complications of pregnancy	15	192
Abortions	12	122
Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever ...	1	3
Complications after childbirth	23	542
Influenza	24	322
Measles	3	16
Whooping Cough	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	45
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	30
Other Diseases in Children under 5 years ...	105	1,183

Midwives.

There were 23 midwives who gave notice to practice in this Borough, although about one-third of this number do very little midwifery work.

The Midwives Act, 1936, made provision for a full time domiciliary service, and, accordingly, the Local Authority for this area appointed eight full time midwives to devote their time to work within the scope of the local authorities' maternity scheme. These nurses were selected from those in local domiciliary practice, and commenced duty on July 1st. Each midwife has been allotted to a district with residence conveniently situated and with telephone service ; and their work has been co-ordinated with the child welfare and ante-natal and post-natal services and with the hospital service. The organisation of this scheme has been greatly facilitated by the experience gained in the administration of a midwifery scheme in which six midwives have, for some years, been employed part-time and guaranteed a minimum payment by the local authority.

No special report on the working of the new scheme has been attempted since it has only been in existence for six months and is still in the adjustment stage. It may merely be stated briefly that the progress of the scheme is satisfactory.

For the same reason no separation of figures has been attempted, and the following paragraphs apply to all midwives practising in the area.

Periodical visits of inspection were made by the Medical Officer and Health Visitors, and the cleanliness of the midwives' homes and the conditions of their midwifery bags were found satisfactory, while the necessary case records and temperature charts were, on the whole, properly kept.

The midwives attended 566 cases (including cases of abortion and miscarriage) during the year—517 in the capacity of a midwife and 49 acting as maternity nurse under the direction of a doctor.

In 32 cases a fee of ten shillings was paid to the midwives as compensation in respect of maternity patients sent to the Birch Hill Maternity Home at the request of a medical practitioner or the Clinic Medical Officer.

Poor-Law Medical Out-Relief.

There are four part-time Medical Officers engaged in this service, each with a separate district, acting under the direction of the Public Assistance Committee. There has been no alteration in the scheme for dealing with medical out-relief during the year.

Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.

The arrangements for the care of mental defectives at Birch Hill Institution are as outlined in previous Reports.

The Public Assistance Committee have, however, now commenced alterations to buildings which will provide modern accommodation for this type of case.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is provided and housed at the Isolation Hospital for the removal of infectious cases.

For the removal of non-infectious and accident cases, or for cases of sickness requiring admission to Hospital, the Borough Police provide three motor ambulances. There are in addition, two privately-owned ambulances and one taxi ambulance in the town.

The total ambulance and taxi journeys removing patients to the Corporation Hospitals on behalf of the Public Health Department were :—Birch Hill Hospital 1,158, Marland Hospital 173, and Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital and Springfield Sanatorium 26.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

There are five Centres in connection with maternity and child welfare in various parts of the Borough provided and maintained by the Local Authority, with twelve sessions each week ; also one Centre each in connection with (a) Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis, and (b) School Medical Inspection.

Hours of Clinic sessions and situation of Centres are shown, as also are particulars of Clinics provided by voluntary associations.

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
I.—Maternity & Child Welfare					
(A) St. Luke's School, Deeplish	10-30 to 12 noon. 2—4 p.m.	—	—	—	—
(B) St. Clement's School, Spotland Bridge ...	—	2—4 p.m.	—	—	—
(C) Norden Liberal Club Edenfield Road	—	—	—	—	2—4 p.m.
(D) Baillie St. Council School	—	—	2—4 p.m.	2—4 p.m.	10—12 a.m.
(E) Castleton Wesleyan School, Essex Street	—	—	—	—	2—4 p.m.
(F) Ante Natal (Baillie St. Council School)	—	5-30 to 7-0 p.m.	10 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	10 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	—
(G) Post Natal (Baillie St. Council School)	—	—	—	—	3—4 p.m.
II.—Municipal Clinic					
Baillie Street					
(A) Tuberculosis Dispen. Entrance: 24 Baillie St.	—	5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.	2—4 p.m.	—	9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.
(B) Venereal Diseases Clinic—					
Male	5-30 to 7-30 p.m.	3-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.	—	5—7 p.m.	—
Entrance: 20 Baillie Street					
Female ...		10-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.	—	—
Entrance: 2 Alfred Street	—				
III.—Clinics Provided by the Education Committee—					
(A) Inspection Clinics ...	9—12 noon	—	2—5 p.m.	—	9—12 noon
(B) Treatment Clinics ...	Daily 9—10	30 a.m.			
(C) Eye Clinic	—	—	—	—	2—4 p.m.
IV.—Orthopaedic Clinic—					
Smith Street	Exercise Clinics held daily throughout the week, 2—4 p.m.				
V.—Clinics provided by the Rochdale Infirmary Board—					
Orthopaedic Clinic ...	Monday to Friday.				
Artificial Light Clinic ...	Morning and Evening each day.				
Ophthalmic Clinic ...	Monday Mid-day.				
Medical Out-Patients Clinic	Wednesday Morning 10-30.				
Ear, Throat and Nose Clinic	Friday Morning 10-30.				
X-Ray	Each Morning at 9 o'clock.				

The work in connection with the Corporation Clinics is set out in detail in the respective sections of this report.

Laboratory Facilities.

(a) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The agreement with Dr. Pooley at the Broadfield Laboratory for the bacteriological examinations necessary for clinical diagnosis in cases of suspected tuberculosis, diphtheria or typhoid fever, has been continued. Outfits for the collection of specimens may be obtained by medical practitioners on application at the Public Health Offices or at the Laboratory; and a telephone or written report on the examination is furnished without delay, and in any case, within twenty-four hours.

Table XII., Appendix, shows that 3,695 bacteriological examinations have been made during the year, compared with 2,813 the previous year and 2,364 in the year 1935. This increase is due, mainly, to the demands of the hospital services.

In addition to this work, the chemical analyses of water and the examination of milk for tuberculosis and bacterial count, etc., is also carried out at the Broadfield Laboratory. The following examinations were carried out :—

Milk—for tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	199
for bacterial count and B.Coli	...	...	...	...	112
for meth. blue reductions test	...	...	...	...	76
Water	...	...	...	...	2

(b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Specimens collected from persons suspected to be suffering from venereal diseases are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, University of Manchester, and during the past year 641 specimens were examined as against 702 in 1936. Outfits for the collection of these specimens are also obtained from the Public Health Office.

(c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Borough Analyst (S. E. Melling, F.I.C.) appointed by this Authority makes all chemical analyses and other examinations required under the Food and Drugs Acts. During the past year 317 samples were submitted. (See page 50 for full details).

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are three dwelling-houses registered as Maternity Homes and two Nursing Homes for medical and for surgical cases are also registered :—

59, Boundary Street—Maternity—one patient ;

60, Park Road—Maternity—two patients ;

183, Drake Street,—Medical and Surgical—four adults and four children ;

62, King Street East—Maternity—one patient ;

The Law Nursing Home, Manchester Road—Medical—34 patients.

One registered Maternity Home at Clement Royds Street was discontinued during the year.

These registered homes have been visited by the Medical Officer and are reported as satisfactory.

Hospitals.

The public and voluntary hospital services in the district provide 994 beds for sick, as shown below :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS—

Birch Hill Hospital—General Medical and Surgical ...	417 beds
do. Maternity	58 „
Birch Hill Institution—Epilepsy, Mentally Infirm, etc.	148 „
Marland Hospital—Infectious diseases	120 „
Springfield Sanatorium—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (females)	36 „
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (males)	55 „

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS—

Rochdale Infirmary—General (chiefly surgical) ...	110 „
The Memorial Home—Orthopædic	50 „

In addition to this number arrangements have been continued during the year to send selected cases of tuberculosis to various sanatoria, i.e., Stannington, Nr. Morpeth; Eastby, Nr. Skipton; Harlow Wood, Nottingham; Crossley Sanatorium, Delamere; and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry.

Three beds are also retained at the Hyde Smallpox Hospital for cases of smallpox which may occur within the Borough.

The extent to which the hospitals under the control of the Corporation have been used during the year is shown in the following summary :—

	No. of Beds available	In Hospital on Dec. 31 1936	No. of Cases admitted during the year	Occupation of Beds		
				Average daily No.	Highest No.	Lowest No.
Marland Hospital ...	120	43	404	41	68	22
Birch Hill Hospital ...	475	387	*3314	382	436	348
Birch Hill Institution ... (Epileptic and mentally Infirm cases)	148	146	130	143	158	135
Springfield Sanatorium ...	36	30	31	29	33	24

*Excluding 719 infants born in Hospital.

These Institutions serve Rochdale County Borough and the adjacent County Districts.

The General Hospital, Birch Hill.

This Hospital serves the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining County districts of Whitworth, Milnrow, Littleborough and Wardle with a total estimated population of 125,197.

There were 3,314 patients (excluding infants born in hospital) admitted during the year, as compared with 2,913 the previous year and 2,723 in 1935.

The patients discharged in the same period include 1,152 children under 16 years and 2,354 adults.

In the Maternity Home there were 749 women confined, and 719 live births were registered. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 650 and 632 respectively. The past year constitutes a record.

Following is a comparative summary relating to the work at Birch Hill Hospital during 1937 and the previous year :—

	Year 1937. Year 1936	
Total number of admissions (including infants born in hospital)	4033	3545
Number of women confined in hospital... ..	749	650
Number of live births	719	632
Number of still-births	39	25
Number of deaths amongst the newly-born (i.e., under 4 weeks of age)	26	17
Total number of deaths amongst children under one year	53	43
Number of maternal deaths among women confined in hospital	2	3
Total number of deaths	529	452
Total number of discharges (including infants born in hospital)	3506	3076
Duration of stay of patients—		
(a) Four weeks or less	2894	2627
(b) Exceeding four weeks but under thirteen weeks	903	649
(c) Exceeding thirteen weeks	238	252
Number of beds occupied, average during the year 1937 (highest 436 on 29/1/37, lowest 348 on 21/8/37)	382	392
Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations)	582	521
Number of abdominal sections	241	201
Number of pathological and microscopical examinations	1340	780

Further details of type and classification of cases dealt with and accommodation provided at this hospital are shown in Tables IX., X., and XI. Appendix.

The representatives of the Health Committee and of the Rochdale Infirmary Board have continued their regular joint meetings during the year, for the purpose of avoiding overlapping of services or redundancy of accommodation and to discuss matters of mutual interest affecting general hospital administration.

The "Five Years' Plan," for the development of hospital services at Birch Hill, has been further continued, and during the year the following building works have been commenced :—

- (a) Erection of New Nurses' Home ;
- (b) Removal and re-erection of Nurses' Lecture Hall ;
- (c) Provision of Staff Canteen ;
- (d) New Operating Theatre Unit, together with Massage and Artificial Light Treatment Departments.

In October the scheme for the re-organisation of the Domestic (non-resident) staff was put into complete operation following a partial adoption of the scheme over a trial period.

This scheme includes the appointment of an additional staff of four general porters and ten junior kitchen maids, together with payment of a fixed weekly wage to the staff of general cleaners, kitchen assistants, etc., instead of payment by the hour. This scheme was found necessary chiefly on account of the withdrawal of inmate labour formerly supplied through the adjoining Public Assistance Institution.

Marland Hospital and Springfield Sanatorium.

A report on the work of these institutions is given in a later part of this Report.

Health Propaganda.

For a period of three days in October, the British Social Hygiene Council, in co-operation with the Health Committee, conducted an educational Campaign dealing with social hygiene. Conferences with youth leaders, teachers and social workers were held, and public meetings and the senior boys and girls at the Secondary Schools were addressed by Dr. T. Drummond Shiels, of London, the addresses being illustrated by films.

The attendance at these meetings was fairly good, but not as large as was desired. A good deal of interest was, however, displayed and much useful discussion took place.

In addition to this educational work, members of the medical, dental and nursing staff of the department have given regular weekly talks to various organisations throughout the winter months, and much public health literature has been distributed and pictorial posters displayed.

In November Rochdale was chosen as a venue for an area meeting to inaugurate the National Fitness Campaign in this part of the County. Representatives of neighbouring authorities and of voluntary Associations in the district connected with all aspects of health work and work amongst youths, were invited to attend. The inaugural meeting was addressed by Herwald Ramsbotham, Esq., O.B.E., M.C., M.P. (Minister of Pensions) ; Godfrey Nicholson, Esq., M.P. ; and Alderman W. T. Kelly, M.P. The meeting was also supported by a three-day Mother and Child Welfare exhibition and by film displays.

While this effort was useful in providing a good deal of advertisement in the area for the Campaign in general, the meeting itself and the exhibition were poorly attended.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

This Act requires births to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours of their occurrence, and with few exceptions the provisions of the Act were generally complied with. The number of births notified, as adjusted by transferred notifications, was 1,116—by midwives 1,104 (including 571 occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home), and by doctors and parents 12.

Health Visitors.

The six Health Visitors now employed are concerned only with maternity and child welfare work, and in addition to their regular attendances at the infant welfare centres, ante-natal, and post-natal clinics, they made nearly 14,000 visits to homes where there are infants and young children, and over 400 visits to expectant mothers, as shown in summary below :—

Classification of Visits								No. of Visits
Primary Visits to Births notified (or otherwise reported)								1,115
" " re Still Births								59
Subsequent Visits to Infants under 1 year								4,686
Subsequent Visits to Infants and Young Children 1—2 years 3,002								} 7,898
" " " " 2—5 " 4,896								
Ante-natal Cases—								
Primary Visits								222
Subsequent Visits								200
Post-natal								2
Infant Deaths								40
Maternal Deaths								8
Boarded-out Infants and Visits under Children Act								56
Infectious Diseases (chiefly Children)								126
Midwives								31
Milk Distribution Scheme								98
Miscellaneous Visits—re Medical and Midwifery Fees, Convalescent Homes, etc.								276
								14,817
Unsuccessful Visits (house closed or occupier out)								823
TOTAL								15,640

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are five Centres in different parts of the town with eight sessions weekly, six in the afternoon of each day of the week, Monday to Friday, and two morning sessions. The additional morning session now held at Baillie Street continues to serve a convenient purpose both to mothers and to the clinic staff.

The attendance of mothers and children at the centres continues to increase, and this year there has been the record number of nearly 30,000 attendances, as against 25,000 the previous year—partly due to the increased attendance of the group of children between two and five years of age. At the various clinic sessions the average attendance varied from 28 at Norden to 122 at St. Luke's, while the weekly attendance at all centres averaged 585, as compared with 489 in the previous year.

The number of children who attended for the first time and who, at the date of their first visit, were under one year of age was 834, or 77.7 per cent of the notified live births, as compared with 776, representing 72.32 per cent. last year.

Details of attendances at the various Centres are given below :—

Centre	New Cases admitted during 1937	Total Attendances of Children			Average Attendance per Clinic Day	No. of Medical examinations by M.O.
		under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs		
(a) Baillie Street * (Wardleworth)	184	3,770	1,319	937	61 (51)	1,650
(b) St. Luke's ...	198	4,256	1,404	936	122 (118)	1,196
(c) St. Clement's ...	143	2,427	1,099	964	90 (73)	1,121
(d) Baillie Street * (Castleton) ...	241	4,435	1,862	1,330	79 (70)	1,919
(e) Castleton Moor ...	94	2,032	829	857	79 (67)	402
(f) Norden ...	63	688	350	321	28 (27)	312
Totals ...	923	17,608	6,863	5,345	—	6,600
Corresponding Figures 1936 ...	860	14,775	6,266	3,913	—	4,170

Attendances during 1936 shown in brackets.

* Two Clinic Sessions per week.

During the year 1937 there have been no changes in the personnel of the medical and health visiting staff who conduct these clinics. These changes have been fairly frequent in the years immediately previous. This continuity is reflected in an increased public interest, with the result that this particular public service is being adequately used. Actually the attendance at one of the

clinics, namely, St. Luke's, has become so high that the clinic has become unwieldy and unsatisfactory from the point of view both of the staff and of the mothers. An effort has been made to overcome this by running a weighing and food distribution session in the morning, prior to the afternoon clinic proper. This arrangement is as yet experimental in nature, and though not entirely satisfactory, since there is no medical officer present, it has, temporarily at any rate, relieved the extreme congestion.

Population changes, due to the removal of tenants from slum properties to the new Housing Estates, have altered the distribution of the attendances at the various clinics throughout the town. A perusal of the above Table will show, particularly, the increased number of attendances at the St. Clement's clinic, Spotland, due to the filling up of the Brotherod Hall Housing Estate.

The Health Committee are again pleased to record their indebtedness to the members of the Ladies' Executive Committee and other co-opted voluntary helpers who gave so much of their time and assistance at the various clinics and in many other directions.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

We are indebted to the local branch of this Society and to their Inspector for their ready and willing co-operation with this Department in dealing with cases of neglect, uncleanness, and similar conditions coming within the purview of the Medical Officer and Health Visitors throughout the year.

Provision of Milk and Food Preparations.

Milk and food preparations are supplied free to necessitous, expectant, and nursing mothers, and to children under five years of age, mainly to children under three years of age, on medical grounds and not on grounds of poverty. The recommendations of the Medical Officer as to grants of milk and food are based on an approved income scale, and are submitted monthly to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for approval.

The quantity of dried milk and food preparations distributed to necessitous families continues to increase, as well as the distribution of similar preparations which are sold at cost price to families whose income exceeds the limit fixed by the Health Committee.

Since the income scale mentioned above remains the same as for last year, this increase must be accounted for by the increased attendances at the Clinics and by the additional efforts made to provide for the two—five year old toddler.

There were 666 necessitous families who shared, without payment, in the supply of 2,778 gallons of fresh milk, 17,058 lbs. of dried milk food, such as Cow and Gate, Ambrosia, Ostermilk, etc., and 5,938 packets of food preparations such as Maltoline and Virol.

Comparative figures are given below :—

Food	Quantities Supplied			Cost of Food	
	At Cost Price	Free of Cost		Distributed Free of Cost	Distributed at Cost Price
	Quantity	No. of Families	Quantity		
			Gallons	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fresh Milk ...	—	147	2778	284 10 9	—
	—	(184)	(3018)	(301 16 4)	—
Dried Milk (Oster- milk, Ambrosia and Cow and Gate, etc.)	Lbs. 10199 (9911)	519 (425)	Lbs. 17058 (11993)	1061 2 6 (749 11 3)	637 8 9 (619 8 9)
Food Preparations (Maltoline and Virol), etc. ...	Pkts. 4961 (3629)	— —	Pkts. 5938 (5903)	106 12 7 (106 8 2)	99 16 5 (81 3 5)

(Figures for the year 1936 are shown in brackets).

Mid-day Meals.

This scheme has for many years included the provision of mid-day meals for expectant and nursing mothers, at certain privately-owned public dining rooms in the borough, but it has always been found difficult to persuade such mothers to take advantage of this arrangement. In October the Health Committee approved an arrangement with the Education Committee to supply mid-day meals to necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and to children under five years of age who are not attending an elementary school, such meals to be consumed at the Dining Centres established for necessitous school children, which are conveniently situated in various parts of the borough. During the three months of this new arrangement 280 meals were supplied to this special group of mothers and young children.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The arrangement, at the various Infant Welfare Centres, for the immunisation of children under five years of age has been continued, and during the year 64 children of that group—53 at the centres and 11 at the nursery school—were immunised.

A discussion of the scheme as a whole will be found in the Section of the Report dealing with Infectious Diseases on page 54, while the immunisation of children at the Elementary Schools is reported upon in the School Medical Service Section of the Report.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

There are three clinical sessions each week at the Baillie Street Council School, one on Tuesday evening and one during each morning, Wednesday and Thursday. One Post-Natal Clinic session is held every Friday afternoon in the same premises.

The number of expectant mothers from the Borough and from the adjoining County districts attending the Ante-Natal Clinic is shown in the comparative figures below :—

			From Rochdale		From County Districts		Total	
			1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
No. of Expectant Mothers								
attending	...	...	665	755	97	103	762	858
No. of Attendances	...		3,314	4,330	523	416	3,837	4,746
Average attendance per								
session	...	...	22.1	28.5	3.5	2.7	25.6	31.2

The 755 Rochdale patients who attended this clinic during the year represent 67.7 per cent. of the total notified (live and still) births in this Borough, as compared with 59.7 per cent. in the previous year and 58.6 per cent. in 1935. This shows a very definite jump in what has previously been a slowly increasing number. It may be noted that the increase is definite also in respect of the total attendances made, whether these be regarded as a gross figure or as an average attendance per person attending. There is, therefore, still evident an increased willingness to take advantage of facilities offered by this clinic. Where necessary, patients are followed up, after attendance at the clinic, by home visitation, and last year the Health Visitors paid 422 visits in this connection.

The attendances at the Post-Natal Clinic are set out in the table below, both for Rochdale patients and patients from other areas :—

			From Rochdale		From County Districts		Total	
			1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
Number of Mothers								
attending	—	180	—	33	—	213
Number of attendances	...		—	295	—	52	—	347
Average attendance per								
session	—	6.7	—	1.2	—	7.9

Since this clinic was only established in the last weeks of 1936, no comparative figures are available, but the increase in twelve months' time appears highly satisfactory.

In August, 1936, a scheme whereby the Ante-Natal Clinics, the Ante-Natal and maternity beds at Birch Hill Hospital, and the Post-Natal clinic should be placed under the clinical charge of one medical officer, who should also be Senior Assistant Resident Medical Officer at Birch Hill Hospital, was inaugurated. The very definite increase in attendance at the clinics and the increased admissions to the Maternity Home at Birch Hill indicate the success of this scheme as compared with the former arrangement whereby the Ante-Natal Clinics were under the clinical supervision of the Maternity and Child Welfare Officer.

Dr. Evans, the Medical Officer in charge of the new scheme, was also in charge of the ante-natal beds and the Maternity Home prior to the new arrangement, and is, therefore, in a position to compare the new regime with the old. His comments may be summarised as follows :—

“ The advantages of maternity cases being under the medical supervision of one individual are undoubted and have been proved up to the hilt in the first complete year of this scheme. The increased knowledge of the case which the medical officer can bring to bear at any stage is obvious, in addition the patient is not the subject of varying opinions as she passes through the various sections. There is no delay in admission to hospital ; on admission there is less delay in commencing treatment in an urgent case ; and the patient meets there a medical attendant whom she already knows. All these points make for that ease and confidence on the part of the patient which is of so great importance.

“ It is a very definite advantage to the medical officer in charge of the Ante-Natal Clinic to know that he has beds in the maternity hospital under his control to which cases can be admitted immediately, either for observation or for treatment.

“ Co-operation with the Child Welfare Department and with social work in respect of patients, as well as the necessary follow-up work, is provided for by the regular attendance of the Health Visitors at the Clinics. The attendance of the Midwives with their cases completes the circle. It is safe to say that practically all the practitioners in the area attend Birch Hill Hospital regularly for one or other purpose, and it is, therefore, very easy to keep in personal touch with them in respect of their own maternity cases.

“ No such comparisons can be made in respect of the Post-Natal Clinic, but its gradual development during the year has been very encouraging, and much good work has been done. With this service added, the medical officer is able to check the results of treatment given and the correctness of the opinions arrived at during all stages of the case. All patients who have passed through the Ante-Natal Clinic are told to attend the Post-Natal Clinic four weeks after confinement, and the follow-up work in connection with these is also provided for by the attendance of the Health Visitors at the Clinic.

“ A considerable number of cases have been referred directly during the year by medical practitioners in the area. A number of patients have been admitted from these clinics to the hospital for operation during the year, while others have had minor treatment carried out or advice given at the clinic.”

X-Ray Facilities.

The X-Ray facilities at Birch Hill Hospital and the Rochdale Infirmary are available when the medical officer desires further information as regards any patient attending the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Consultant Services.

Dr. E. A. Gerrard, of Manchester, continues to act as Consultant Obstetrician to this Authority, and in addition, Dr. Evans, who acts as Senior Assistant Resident Medical Officer at Birch Hill Hospital, and is in clinical charge of the maternity services, is also available for consultation when required.

Orthopædic Clinic.

There is at present no separate scheme for orthopædic treatment in the case of children under five years of age, but children in this group who attend the Infant Welfare Centres and are found to require expert opinion or treatment, are referred to the local clinic carried on by the Crippled Children's Union, under the direction of Dr. W. H. Bateman, whose services we gratefully acknowledge.

Maternity Outfits.

Outfits containing the necessary clothing, linen, etc., for mothers and newly-born infants are loaned out free to poor families where the confinement is arranged to take place at home. Five outfits were loaned during the year.

Sterilised Accouchement Outfits may be obtained at the Infant Welfare Clinic at cost price, and in necessitous cases are supplied free.

Dental Services.

The arrangement with the Education Committee for the services of the School Dentist in the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers, and of children under five years of age, has been continued and extended in scope during the year so as to include the provision of dentures for adults in necessitous cases.

Additional facilities for the convenience of those requiring this service are anticipated early in the next year, including additional clinic days and clinic centres on the out-districts of the Borough, consequent on the appointment of an additional Dental Officer.

Much valuable dental work in the nature of extractions and small fillings, necessary for clearing septic conditions, has again been carried out as shown in summary below :—

					Mothers		Children under 5 yrs
No. of Extractions	...	...	...	...	287	...	57
No. of Fillings	...	...	...	...	1	...	7
No. of Scalings	...	...	...	...	5	...	—
Gum Treatment	...	...	...	...	4	...	—
Anæsthetics—							
(a) Local	...	...	...	...	98	...	29
(b) General	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Other Minor Operations	...	...	...	...	3	...	—

Medical Assistance.

Registered Midwives attending maternity patients and acting in accordance with the regulations of the Central Midwives Board made 217 calls requiring the attendance of a medical practitioner in the case of some emergency or abnormality arising during pregnancy, labour or lying-in, and 30 calls in respect of some abnormal condition of the child. The corresponding figures last year were 216 and 28 respectively.

In 124 cases the Medical Practitioner's fee was paid by the Local Authority, amounting to £186 18s. 0d., as against £238 in the year 1936. The Local Authority is empowered by the Midwives Act to recover these fees from patients where family circumstances allow, but last year only 47 such reclaims amounting to £60 1s. 0d. were made.

Midwifery Fees.

The Local Authority pay the midwifery fee in cases where the family circumstances are poor and where there is no maternity benefit available. During the year the fee was paid in whole or part in 64 cases.

Maternity Home.

The Maternity Home at Birch Hill provides 48 beds for maternity cases, and 10 beds are also set aside in the adjacent building for patients requiring ante-natal treatment.

The past year has proved a record in the number of maternity patients admitted—885 as against 650 the previous year. The minimum scale charge is at the rate of £2 5s. 6d. per week for the first 14 days, and thereafter £2 2s. 0d. per week, but in necessitous cases this fee may be reduced and even cancelled.

There were 266 cases during the year assisted by a reduction in the charge for maintenance as against 226 the previous year.

ADDENDUM.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

2nd. Paragraph.

One of the cases included in the Registrar General's official figures appeared definitely to us to fall in the group associated with child birth rather than in the group of true maternal deaths. Evidence in support of this view was, however, obtained too late to permit of the Registrar General considering any alteration in classification.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

There were six cases of puerperal pyrexia notified, as compared with an average in this group of fever and pyrexia during the previous five years of two and four respectively. Four of the cases occurring in 1937 were removed to Marland Hospital.

Maternal Mortality.

There were seven deaths registered and classified by the Registrar General as due to puerperal causes, as compared with four deaths the previous year, and two deaths in the year 1935. Calculated per 1,000 total births (live and stillbirths) the mortality rate was 6.1, which is a definite increase as compared with the last year's figure of 3.51.

A close study of the records in respect of the remaining six deaths does not show any evidence of necessary alterations in the arrangements made for maternity work in this area. It shows, however, continued need for emphasising the importance of early and adequate supervision of pregnancy.

Two cases showed definite evidence of lack of co-operation on the part of the patient and failure to take elementary precautions.

It is, unfortunately, not always possible to say that pregnancy is a normal function ; this can only be said if the woman is in normal health at the commencement of pregnancy. One case showed evidence of pre-existing disease, both in the last and in previous pregnancies. In another, abnormal conditions, not connected with pregnancy, masked the presence of an early pregnancy which had a fatal termination within twenty-four hours of its recognition.

Further, the occurrence of accident in apparently normal cases can never be entirely ignored. In two apparently normal cases death occurred suddenly from unforeseen accidents, at a time when the patient had practically ceased to require supervision after her confinement.

Figures such as these for the present year and for 1936 show the extreme difficulty of maintaining a consistently low maternal mortality in any area. They also, however, emphasise the importance of ensuring the best working of the whole of the sections of a maternity scheme so that these figures of unavoidable deaths may not have added to them deaths which ordinary precautions ought to have prevented.

Comparative figures of maternal mortality in this borough and in neighbouring towns during the past seven years, based on the total births, i.e., live and still births, are given below :—

TOWN	MATERNAL MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS		
	1937	1936	Average 5 years 1931-35
BLACKBURN	6.34	4.91	3.98
BOLTON	6.11	3.93	6.18
BOOTLE	3.50	3.42	3.19
BURNLEY	1.79	5.92	7.28
HALIFAX	2.39	7.02	7.21
HUDDERSFIELD	1.30	5.99	6.31
OLDHAM	3.36	6.17	7.04
PRESTON	2.40	8.60	5.98
ST. HELENS	7.14	4.84	3.95
STOCKPORT	8.59	3.15	4.53
WARRINGTON	1.41	5.24	5.64
WIGAN	2.81	2.63	5.11
Average 12 Towns	3.93	5.21	5.53
ROCHDALE	6.10	3.51	3.83
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF LANCASTER ...	5.00	4.91	4.83
ENGLAND & WALES	3.11	3.65	4.13

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

It is pleasing to note that children suffering from ophthalmia are now a diminishing number. No cases were reported during the past year, as against an average of 2.8 during the five years 1932-36, and 8.6 during the preceding five years ending 1931.

Boarded-out Children.

Since March, 1937, an officer of the Public Assistance Committee has carried out the duty of supervising the children boarded-out in accordance with the Public Assistance Order, 1930, and reports thereon are submitted to that Committee.

Child Life Protection.

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors under the Public Health Act, 1936, which makes provision for the supervision of children up to the age of nine years who are cared for by some person during the day and night and maintained "apart from their parents." At the end of the year there were ten persons registered as receiving children for reward, and the number of children concerned was ten.

Comparative figures are given below :—

	Year 1937	Year 1936
NUMBER OF FOSTER PARENTS ON REGISTER :—		
(a) At the beginning of the year ...	8	20
(b) At the end of the year ...	10	8
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON REGISTER :—		
(a) At the beginning of the year ...	8	20
(b) At the end of the year ...	10	8
(c) Who died during the year ...	Nil	Nil
(d) On whom inquests were held during the year ...	Nil	Nil

It is unfortunate that there is no machinery, other than can be put into motion through the N.S.P.C.C., for ensuring that the boarding out of children in the day shall be with suitable nurses in a proper environment. As it is the children of mothers who work may be nursed out by the day by anyone, and as there are often frequent changes of nurse the Health Visitors find great difficulty in following up such cases. Foster mothers who take children to sleep over night, come, of course, under the Act which provides for their registration. It is desirable that such registration should be extended to day nursing.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Chief Officials of the various Departments of the Corporation for information included in this section of the Report.

Water Supply.

By the completion of the Watergrove Reservoir, which was mentioned in a previous report, the position of the Rochdale water supply area, as to the adequacy of the supply in times of drought, will be satisfactory. Indeed, for many years there is likely to be a considerable surplus.

There is no reason for anxiety as to the quality of water which is supplied from any of the reservoirs belonging to the Corporation. From a chemical point of view, water supplied from these reservoirs is tested daily against plumbo-solvency, by the determination of the pH value.

No adverse reports from a bacteriological point of view have been received during the year.

Arrangements have been made for bacteriological examination as well as chemical examination of water from all the reservoirs to be made quarterly.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council have approved a scheme for the extension of the Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works with the object of dealing with the increased flow due to conversions, erection of new buildings, and the increased consumption of water per head of population.

The Council are preparing a scheme for the re-sewering of the Norden area of their district.

Rivers and Streams.

The Rivers Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee are primarily responsible for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams in the area, but as much assistance as possible is given by report to the Joint Committee of any cases which come to the notice of the Borough Surveyor.

Public Cleansing.

Reconstruction of the refuse disposal plant on the separation and incineration principle was completed during the year.

Steam raised by burning the town's refuse is supplied to the new public baths, which have been erected on land adjoining the Cleansing Depot.

Production of fertilizers and fats from butchers' offals, fish waste, condemned meat and privy pail contents was resumed, the organic by-products plant having been re-housed and augmented.

There were no important changes in other branches of the service.

Closet Accommodation.

The accommodation in the Borough at the end of December, 1937, was as follows :—

Fresh-water Carriage System	...	...	...	...	...	24,691
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	1,839
Waste-water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	2,160
Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	42

The following is a copy of a report submitted to the Sanitary Sub-Committee of the Health Committee :—

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS AND WASTE-WATER CLOSETS TO THE FRESH-WATER CARRIAGE SYSTEM.

The original number of pail closets which existed in the Borough in 1911 was approximately 14,031 ; in October, 1933, this was increased by 453 by the inclusion of Norden and Bamford districts, and at the end of last year (1936) the total of 14,484 had been reduced to 2,011, of which only 365 could be dealt with.

The position now is that 12,014 have been converted and 453 have been done away with under the conversion scheme as not being required, leaving an estimated total of 1,839 pail closets still to be dealt with, of which 1,297 are at

dwellings. The statement of the number of closets converted since the commencement of the work in 1911 is appended in Table I., and is shown in five-year periods

It will be seen from the Table that 1,950 additional closets have been installed for the purpose of bringing joint accommodation up to separate, and if these are included the total number of closets completed is 13,964.

Analysis of Remaining Accommodation—Separate Accommodation.

Table II. shows that of the 1,297 pail closets remaining at dwellings, 552 are separate accommodation and 745 joint accommodation. Of the 552 separate closets 122 can at present be dealt with under the conversion scheme. There are 430 of these separate closets the conversion of which is held up by :—

- (1) Unsuitability or insufficiency of sewers ;
- (2) Owing to being situated in areas to be dealt with in the Housing Committee's "Five Year Plan" either by demolition or by breaking through of the houses.

The cases which do not come under the conversion scheme proper and to which the Committee do not contribute number 484. These are situated at mills, workshops, churches, clubs, schools, etc., but only 112 of these can be dealt with. In addition there are 58 closets at farms, of which only one can be dealt with.

Joint Accommodation.

Of the 745 jointly used closets 705 are waiting for new sewers or are included in the "Five Year Plan." These cannot be immediately dealt with, and, including those which are now in hand or in progress, there remains a total of 40 which at the end of 1937 were under consideration and for all of which there were Notices outstanding.

The small number of closets now annually converted is due in some measure to the policy of the Committee in discouraging expenditure on properties which owing to bad arrangement, lack of space, etc., are likely to come under the consideration of the Housing Committee when the "Five Year Plan" has been completed.

Notes regarding Table II.

Table II., which is appended, gives in detail a statement of the pail closet accommodation in Rochdale in December, 1937.

It will be seen that the number of conversions held up for the want of proper sewerage is 864, and that 700 others cannot be considered owing to being involved in the Housing Committee's "Five Year Plan."

It will also be seen that 98 mills and workshops still have pail closets numbering 341, many of which cannot be converted for reasons shown. The Day Schools mentioned in the Table are Healey School and St. Paul's School, Norden, where no sewer is available.

Attention is drawn to the footnote of Table II., which gives the number of premises affected as distinct from the number of closets.

It will be seen that many conversions are here held over from want of sewers. Amongst these are several cases of outlying hamlets where the possibility of new sewers being constructed is very remote.

Waste-Water Closets.

As anticipated in last year's Report the Health Committee has offered a contribution towards the cost of the conversion of waste-water closets to the fresh-water carriage system, as allowed for by the Public Health Act, 1936. At the commencement of the year there were approximately 1,800 waste-water closets, 1,300 being of the deep shaft type and 500 of the shallow type.

During the year 107 have been converted, 100 of these since June, and it is expected that this number will be greatly increased during 1938.

A. E. DUNCAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.
STATEMENT SHOWING PROGRESS OF CONVERSION
WORK FROM COMMENCEMENT.

Period					Conversions	Additional Closets Installed	Total
1911—1915	...	...	...	...	2646	208	2854
1916—1920	...	...	...	...	67	1	68
1921—1925	...	...	...	...	4705	355	5060
1926—1930	...	...	...	...	3220	1005	4225
1931—1935	...	...	...	...	1203	334	1537
1936	...	...	...	...	65	23	88
1937	...	...	...	...	108	24	132
					12014	1950	13964

(a) 64 pail closets not required have been abolished during 1937.

TABLE II.

ANALYSIS OF PAIL CLOSET ACCOMMODATION
REMAINING DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

Class	Total	No sewer avail- able	Sewer unsuit- able	Scheduled in "Five Year Plan"	Remaining to be dealt with
Dwellings—Joint ...	745	148	22	535	40
Separate...	553	176	95	160	122
Churches, etc. ...	73	57	2	—	14
Factories, Works and Shops	341	134	117	2	88
Clubs	63	53	—	—	10
Licensed Premises ...	6	5	—	1	—
Farms	58	55	—	2	1
TOTALS	1839	628	236	700	275

No. of premises concerned :—

Farms	58	Schools and Churches ...	19
Licensed premises ...	3	Clubs	23
Workshops	98		

PAIL CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

The Additional Work carried out during the year in connection with
Pail Closet Conversions is summarised below.

(a) **Joint Accommodation—**

No. of Houses affected	...	...	...	...	...	52
No. of Pail Closets existing	...	...	...	...	...	27
No. of W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	49
Main drainage reconstructed on modern principles	...					3
Main drainage partly reconstructed	...	...	...	...		5
Branch drains, etc., reconstructed	...	...	...	...		43
Inspection chambers and vent shafts provided to existing drainage	...	...	...	...	...	3
Increased yard space	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses broken through or provided with back doors and made through	...	...	...	...	...	4
Back to back or inset cottages attached or utilised	...					3
Bath rooms provided	...	...	...	...	...	6

(b) **Separate Accommodation—**

No. of houses affected	...	...	...	...	...	48
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	29
Pail closets pulled down and re-erected	...	...	...			17
Pail closets pulled down and inside W.C.s installed	...					2
Main drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...		8
„ „ partly reconstructed...	...	...	...	...		7
Branch drains, etc., installed or reconstructed	...	...				38
Inspection chambers and vent shafts provided to existing drainage	...	...	...	...	...	5
Increased yard space	...	...	...	...	...	12
Yard walls rebuilt or partly rebuilt	...	...	...			2

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

500 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 19 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers, and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below.

Statement of Removal of Nuisances in and around dwellings as distinct from work carried out under the Housing Acts.

NATURE OF WORK DONE	Nos.
HOUSES—	
Houses limewashed and cleansed	9
House repairs—walls and ceilings (including dampness) ...	153
floors	23
roofs	57
General house fittings repaired (boilers, fire ranges, etc.) ...	39
" " " (doors, staircases and hand-rails) ...	12
House chimneys repaired	7
Window Cords Repaired	31
Window Frames Repaired	25
Eaves troughing repaired	25
Rain water pipes repaired	20
Rain water pipes disconnected	3
Waste pipes repaired and (or) trapped	9
Water supply pipes repaired	2
Slopstones replaced or repaired	6
Defective Coal Chutes and Grates repaired	1
YARDS, PASSAGES—	
Yard surfaces repaired... .. .	2
Yard Gates repaired	3
ACCUMULATIONS—	
Offensive accumulations removed	9
Stagnant water removed from cellars, passages, etc.	7
Building accumulations removed	5
CLOSETS—	
Water-closets repaired or altered	18
Additional closets provided—previously insufficient	24
(For pail closets converted see under conversion of pail closets)	
Pail closets and water-closets cleansed	—
Waste Water Closets repaired	2
W.C. cisterns—service pipes repaired or renewed	16

NATURE OF WORK DONE	Nos.
ASHPLACES—	
Ashplaces repaired or reconstructed	1
Ashbins renewed	1
(See under Separate and Joint Pail Closet Conversions under Conversion Scheme)	
Ashbin Shelters provided	1
DRAINS—	
Main drains reconstructed or given proper outlets	1
Drains repaired only	5
Drains opened and cleansed	36
New gully tops provided and fixed	4
Disused main drains removed	1
GENERAL—	
Effluvium and dust nuisances abated	1
Keeping of animals discontinued (dogs, fowls, etc.)	6
Burning of refuse discontinued	1
Private water supply cisterns cleansed	1
Defective gas pipes repaired	3
Non-provision of cooking or washing facilities	1
NOTE.—See also under Factory and Workshops Acts, Additional works in connection with conversion, etc.	

In two cases during the year legal proceedings were instituted ; in one case a Magistrates' Order was procured, and the work was subsequently carried out. In the other case the work was in hand at the date of the hearing (January, 1938), and the proceedings were adjourned. The work was completed before the date of the adjourned hearing, and the summons was accordingly withdrawn, costs being given against the defendant.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in this Borough where rag flock is manufactured. One sample of rag flock was taken on request from another authority from a warehouse where flocks are dealt with and was found to comply with the Regulations.

Shops Act, 1934.

During the year 33 inspections have been carried out and 13 notices under the Act were served in connection with contraventions of the requirements. Three of these Notices have been complied with, and most of the remainder are at present in hand.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year 560 visits were made to premises regarding which complaints had been received under the above Act. One part-time rat catcher is employed by the Department, and the total number of rats actually caught was 548. The premises dealt with include slaughter-houses, dwelling-houses, shops and warehouses, on which 1,182 rat-baits, 15 tins of rat lime and 23 tubes of rat poison were used.

Offensive Trades.

The number of premises at which these trades are carried out in the Borough is as follows :—

Tripe boiling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gut scraping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmongering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Knacker's yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The number of visits to these premises during the year was 31.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Retail Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 213. These have been regularly inspected, and cleansing and limewashing carried out on intimation from the Inspector in 66 cases.

A high standard of cleanliness has been generally maintained, and it has not been found necessary to issue any statutory notices in this respect.

Workshops.

502 inspections of workshops have been carried out during the year, and in six cases the sanitary arrangements have been improved. See Table XIII., Appendix, for full particulars of inspections under these Acts.

Smoke Abatement.

The recorded observations during 1937 numbered 175. The observations were for one half-hour each, and were confined to factory chimneys in the Borough. The time limit for the issue of dense smoke fixed by the Town Council is two minutes per half-hour, and this time-limit was exceeded during 1937 on 33 occasions. In two cases proceedings were instituted, which resulted in the Justices making an Order for abatement against one of the firms concerned and imposing a fine of £2 and Costs; in the other case a fine of £5 and Costs was imposed for failure to comply with a Court Order requiring the abatement of a smoke nuisance. Statutory Notices were served on 26 firms requiring them to abate the excessive emission of dense smoke.

The number of times when the issue of moderately dense smoke (as distinct from dense smoke) exceeded ten minutes in the half-hour and where special letters were sent was six.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

During 1937-38 the Health Committee carried on the observations of atmospheric deposit with one gauge situated at the rear of the Town Hall. The following figures refer to the results obtained from this gauge up to the end of March, 1938; it should, however, be noted that the averages are based on the results of nine months' observations, since the months of April and May, 1937, and March, 1938, are not included owing to the gauge being damaged or fouled by persons unknown.

It should be noted that the Health Committee have now decided to discontinue observations in the future.

TABLE A.

MEAN MONTHLY DEPOSIT OF SOLIDS IN ROCHDALE DURING 1937-38.

Total Deposit in English tons per square mile.					
Year	Total Solids	Highest	Lowest	Undissolved	Percentage of Undissolved matter to Total
1937-38	15.08	31.16 Sept., 1937	9.85 July, 1937	8.21	55.2%

From April 1st, 1937, to March 31st, 1938, the mean monthly deposit of solids averaged 15.08 tons per square mile, as against 15.17 tons in the previous year; the deposit for the year 1937-38 is therefore the lowest on record for the Borough. From the following table it may be seen that a steady decrease occurred up to 1933; from 1933 to 1935 a slight increase occurred, which, however, has given place to the low figures recorded for 1937-38.

TABLE B.

MEAN MONTHLY DEPOSIT OF ALL SOLIDS IN ROCHDALE,
1916-1938.

					English tons per square mile
Average 1916-1927—					
(Technical School Gauge)	...	...			59.6
Average 1927-1928—					
(9 Gauges)	...	...	...	...	33.2
Average 1928-1930—					
(5 Gauges)	...	...	...	...	29.9
Average 1930-1932—					
(2 Gauges)	...	...	...	...	23.4
1932-33 (1 Gauge)	...	...	...	...	16.3
1933-34 (1 Gauge)	...	...	...	...	18.9
1934-35 (1 Gauge)	...	...	...	...	20.08
1935-36 (1 Gauge)	...	...	...	...	19.80
1936-37 (1 Gauge)	...	...	...	...	15.17
1937-38 (1 Gauge)	...	...	...	...	15.08

TABLE C.

MEAN MONTHLY DEPOSIT.—ENGLISH TONS PER SQUARE MILE.

Period	Total Solids			Sulphates as SO ₃	Tarry Matter
	Undiss'lv'd Matter	Dissolved Matter	Total		
1928 and 1929 (5 gauges)	20.41	9.82	30.24	2.69	0.43
1929 and 1930 (5 gauges)	20.88	8.82	29.70	2.42	0.45
1930 and 1931 (2 gauges)	16.38	9.83	26.21	2.83	0.39
1931 and 1932 (2 gauges)	12.75	7.92	20.67	1.98	0.40
1932 and 1933 (1 gauge)	10.09	6.22	16.31	1.63	0.31
1933 and 1934 (1 gauge)	10.34	8.64	18.98	2.82	0.41
1934 and 1935 (1 gauge)	10.43	9.65	20.08	3.82	0.34
1935 and 1936 (1 gauge)	10.22	9.58	19.80	3.11	0.35
1936 and 1937 (1 gauge)	8.19	6.98	15.17	2.29	0.33
1937-38	8.21	6.87	15.08	2.28	0.31

TABLE D.
SEASONAL DEPOSIT.
MEAN MONTHLY DEPOSIT.—ENGLISH TONS PER SQUARE MILE.

Month	Total Solids			Sulphates as SO ₃	Tarry Matter
	Undiss'lv'd Matter	Dissolved Matter	Total		
APRIL—1937 (a)...	—	—	—	—	—
MAY... (b)...	—	—	—	—	—
JUNE ...	7.06	6.07	13.13	2.47	0.25
JULY ...	4.72	5.13	9.85	2.35	0.20
AUGUST ...	2.52	9.06	11.58	3.42	0.18
SEPTEMBER...	19.30	11.86	31.16	3.37	0.53
OCTOBER ...	10.35	8.67	19.02	3.03	0.38
NOVEMBER ...	8.95	4.36	13.31	1.35	0.38
DECEMBER ...	7.21	3.83	11.04	1.55	0.33
JANUARY—1938 ...	8.21	7.70	15.91	1.86	0.33
FEBRUARY ...	5.56	5.20	10.76	1.17	0.20
MARCH ... (c)...	—	—	—	—	—
Averages ...	8.21	6.87	15.08	2.28	0.31

“ a ” and “ c ” Gauge damaged, “ b ” Gauge fouled.

Averages based on the nine months for which records are available.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) PUBLIC BATHS :

The following report on the Corporation Baths has been kindly supplied by the Baths Superintendent :—

“ At the New Baths and at Castleton the Swimming Bath water is filtered, aerated and chlorinated to ensure bacteria-free water for bathing in.

“ Tests are taken periodically throughout the day to ascertain the Chemical and Chlorine content, and Bacteriological tests have been taken of the water in the New Baths to make certain of the efficiency of the plant installed there, and these tests proved to conform to the Ministry of Health standards for Swimming Bath Waters.

“ Four 10-ft. filters are installed at the New Baths for the filtration of the two Plunge Baths, and the entire contents of both baths are filtered, aerated and chlorinated once every 3½ hours. At the Castleton Baths two filters are installed and the turnover period is once every 3½ hours.”

(b) PRIVATELY OWNED POOLS :—

The “ Riviera ” Open-air Swimming Pool at Norden is the only one in the borough, and the Manager has kindly reported as follows :—

“ Filtration and Chlorination plant runs all the 24 hours, and tests are taken periodically throughout the day. The turnover is 100,000 gallons every eight hours. No Bacteriological tests are now taken.”

HOUSING.

Statistics relating to the number of houses erected, inspections and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts are given below :—

1.—INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	691
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1524
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	407
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	814
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	401
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of these referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	276

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... ..	290
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied :—	
Statutory or Abatement Notices	22
Preliminary Notices	248
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	72
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	105
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	56
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	14

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	677
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	690
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	3844½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	33
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	190½

Unhealthy Areas.

During the year 22 areas were inspected and complete reports prepared. Official Representations for these areas which included 215 dwelling-houses will be presented to the Housing Committee early in 1938.

Disinfestation of Houses and Furniture.

During 1937 the Housing Department have referred to the Public Health Department 33 Council houses found to be affected with vermin. 25 of these have been treated at the expense of the Housing Committee, either by fumigation, the spraying of liquid vermicide, or both, according to the extent of infestation. In most cases the picture moulds, skirting boards, architraves and covering woodwork have been removed and separately treated before being reinstated. The remaining eight of these Council houses, which were found to be badly infested, were vacated and treated with hydro-cyanic acid gas, and the treatment proved efficacious. This work has called for 84 visits for inspection and treatment.

In addition two houses not owned by the Council have been treated at the request and expense of the respective landlords, six visits being paid to these houses.

In connection with the removal of tenants from Clearance Areas a system of disinfestation of furniture and effects by hydro-cyanic acid gas was established in 1934. This is carried out by a firm of experts, and is supervised by the Staff of this Department. The furniture is loaded into a large van, is taken to an open space at the Cleansing Department, and there treated in the van ; the furniture is afterwards delivered direct to the new house provided.

In order to avoid any possible risk to human beings from hydro-cyanic acid gas each family is supplied with a mattress and pillows for one night, their own bedding being returned to them on the following day, after being thoroughly aired at the Cleansing Department.

This method has proved eminently successful, and after the first few weeks no opposition by persons, alleged by the Department to have furniture requiring treatment, has been experienced. The furniture and effects from 219 houses were treated in this way during the year, involving 670 visits by the Inspector.

Common Lodging-houses.

There are twelve of these premises registered ; comprising 78 rooms and providing accommodation for 724 persons—707 beds being provided for the use of males and 10 for the use of couples or for females.

Weekly visits of inspection are paid to these premises, and it has been found that, with few exceptions, they are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Some of the premises, however, are not considered to be in all respects in accordance with modern standards.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of farms on the register at the end of 1937 was 105. The number of visits paid by the Dairy Inspector was 176. During the year the following improvements have been made under notice from this Department :—

Shippons reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	11
New Dairies provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Middensteads provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Farms discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	3

In the case of ten other farms which are under notice for improvements or reconstruction of farm premises, the work is in progress or has been arranged.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 238, while the number retailing unbottled milk is 5. With the exception of one, these are registered dairies. 265 visits of inspection were paid to these premises by the Dairies Inspector.

Inspection of Premises used for the Preparation and Sale of Foodstuffs.

The inspection of all premises used for the preparation and sale of foodstuffs has received constant attention during the year, and 2,765 visits have been made. The use of four of the premises has been discontinued on notice by the Inspector, 12 notices have been served in respect of others for limewashing and cleansing.

Meat and Food Supply.

The foodstuffs delivered in the Borough during the year, taken collectively, show a good standard of quality.

The number of recognised slaughter-houses in the Borough is 16 ; of this number three are registered and 13 are licensed annually.

There has been regular inspection of meat and food offered for retail sale, and over 27 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human food as shown in the following summary :—

Disease or Condition							No. of animals affected	Weight in lbs.
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	187	43,142
Septicæmia	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	4,268
Pyæmia	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	4,395
Abscesses	..	..	..	..	..	..	76	760
Jaundice...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	168
Pericarditis	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	168
Dropsy	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	4,116
Cirrhosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	141	1,410
Imperfect bleeding	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	1,734
Frozen Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	501
Immaturity (Calves)	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	120
Actinomycosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	204
Unwholesome Food—								
Fruit and Vegetables							..	897
Fish							..	372
Hares							7	...
Turkeys							35	...
Ducks ...							5	...
Chickens							48	...
Rabbits							141 Couples	...
Tinned Egg Yolks ... 15 large tins							...	...
Miscellaneous							...	1,608
Total 27 tons 12 cwts. 1 qr. 11 lbs.								

During the year two meat vendors were prosecuted for exposing diseased meat for sale, and another vendor for failing to notify the local authority following the slaughter of a cow for sale for human consumption. Convictions were obtained in all three cases and fines totalling £65 were imposed.

No figures are available as to the actual number of animals killed at the various slaughter-houses during the year, but nearly 26,000 carcasses of animals were inspected by an officer of the Department as shown below :—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	Figures not available				
Number inspected ...	Bovine animals 4716		403	18895	1953
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	4	7	1	21	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Bovine animals 161		—	36	48
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affect- ed with disease other than tuberculosis ...	Bovine animals 3.65%		0.25%	0.30%	2.97%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	11	15	—	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	39	82	—	—	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	Bovine animals 3.12%		—	—	2.05%

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

The Watch Committee is the authority responsible for administration of this Order, but the actual work of inspection, etc., is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and his Inspectors. Periodical reports are submitted to the Watch Committee. The number of animals examined under the Order was 85, and the number of cows showing signs of tuberculosis was two. These were slaughtered and the opinion as to the tuberculous condition confirmed. The total amount of compensation paid to the owners of these animals during the year was £21 5s. 0d.

MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

Tuberculous Milk.

During the year 120 samples of milk have been taken in the Rochdale streets for the purpose of detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. These samples represented the milk of about 1,500 cows, and were taken in batches at various periods of the year. Of the samples 81 were from Rochdale Borough farmers, and 39 were from County farmers delivering milk in the Borough. The number found to be positively tubercular was:—

From Rochdale Farmers ...	...	...	...	...	3 (3.7%)
From County Farmers ...	...	...	...	...	2 (5.1%)

The following Table gives this information concisely:—

Number of Samples taken				Samples Negative		Samples Positive		Percentage
Jan.	{ Borough County	7	9	7	9	—	—	—
Feb.	{ Borough County	22	—	19	—	3	—	13.6%
March	{ Borough County	12	3	12	3	—	—	—
April	{ Borough County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	{ Borough County	2	8	2	8	—	—	—
June	{ Borough County	3	7	3	6	—	1	14.3%
July	{ Borough County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aug.	{ Borough County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sept.	{ Borough County	26	4	26	3	—	1	25%
October	{ Borough County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Novem.	{ Borough County	9	8	9	8	—	—	—
Decem.	{ Borough County	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	{ Borough County	81	39	78	37	3	2	3.7% 5.1%
COMBINED TOTALS ...		120		115		5		4.17%

It will be seen that 4.17% of all the mixed samples were found to contain tubercle bacilli, as against 3.97% in 1936 ; 8% in 1935 ; and an average of 7.87% in the preceding five years.

Each positive sample was followed up by secondary samples from all cows on infected farms ; the number of secondary samples necessary for the Borough was 86.

The work is being continued on a similar scale during 1938.

Accredited Milk.

There were 20 farmers licensed for the production of Accredited Milk at the end of the year, but one of these has since ceased to supply owing to his farm and premises being required for building. As a result of samples taken during the year another producer was removed from the Register by the Health Committee.

Bacterial Counts, etc.

During the year 107 samples were taken at regular intervals for examination for bacterial count, coliform bacillus and for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test ; of this number 75 were obtained from Accredited Producers and the average results of these are summarised below :—

Report on the Examination of Samples of Milk from Accredited Producers.

(Average of four samples per producer obtained during 1937).

No.	Bacterial *Count per cc.	Coliform Bacillus present in		Methylene Blue Reduction Test
		1/10 cc.	1/100 cc.	
1	15,605	absent	absent	Satisfactory
2	7,288	"	"	"
3	20,034	"	"	"
4	30,737	"	"	Once unsatisfactory
5	2,274	"	"	Satisfactory
6	10,113	once	once	"
7	6,474	absent	absent	"
8	36,706	twice	once	"
9	8,914	absent	absent	"
10	29,200	"	"	"
11	28,249	once	"	"
12	29,112	absent	"	"
13	6,658	"	"	"
14	2,619	"	"	"
15	89,133	twice	once	"
16	153,911	absent	absent	Once unsatisfactory
17	40,713	once	"	Satisfactory
18	7,809	absent	"	"
19	102,920	twice	once	"
20	16,090	absent	absent	"

* Standard adopted 200,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre.

The remaining 32 samples were taken from milk producers not on the accredited list and from certain dairymen ; they were subjected to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and were all found to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS (Adulteration) ACT, 1928.

317 samples of food and drugs, as against 319 in 1936, were obtained by the Inspector, 27 of which on analysis were found not to comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act. The following is a list of the samples obtained :—

Description	Number taken		Result of Analysis	
	Formally	Informally	Genuine	Adulterat'd
Milk	179	64	217	26
Glycerine ... ..	...	1	1	...
Butter ... ..	...	3	3	...
Margarine ... ..	...	1	1	...
Lard ... ..	...	2	2	...
Tea ... ..	...	3	3	...
Cream ... ..	...	1	1	...
Dried and Preserved Fruit ... ..	...	9	9	...
Coffee ... ..	...	2	2	...
Brawn ... ..	...	1	1	...
Cocoa ... ..	...	1	1	...
Vinegar ... ..	...	4	4	...
Sweets ... ..	...	1	1	...
Orange Juice ... ..	...	1	1	...
Sundry Groceries and Institutional Supplies ... ..	...	37	37	...
Whisky	4	...	4	...
Rum	2	...	1	1
Olive Oil ... ..	...	1	1	...
Total	185	132	290	27

Of the 27 samples reported as adulterated, proceedings were instituted in eight cases in regard to milk, in one case in regard to rum. Convictions were obtained in all cases, and fines totalling £29, together with analyst's fees and costs, were imposed. In three other cases the vendors were exonerated as a result of appeal to cow samples or of samples taken in course of delivery ; 11 others were informal samples, and of the remainder three were only slightly below standard, and the other was an appeal to cow sample, which was obtained

by a neighbouring authority and was deficient in milk fat. One further case although below the Ministry of Agriculture limit of genuineness, was proved genuine on the application of the Hortvet Freezing Point Depression Test.

Eight appeal to cow samples were taken at farms. The vendor of the adulterated rum sample (15.6% excess water) was fined £2 and ordered to pay analyst's fee.

The full analysis of milk samples in connection with which proceedings were taken is given in the following table :—

No.	Percentage of			Extent of Adulteration
	Fatty Solids	Non-Fatty Solids	Water	
546	3.35	7.51	89.14	11.6% Extraneous Water.
547	3.05	7.20	89.75	15.2% " "
577	3.17	7.40	89.43	12.9% " "
578	2.50	8.28	89.22	{ 2.5% Extraneous Water and 16.6% Fat Deficiency
610	3.32	8.35	88.33	
627	3.84	8.36	87.80	1.7% Extraneous Water.
733	3.77	7.47	88.76	1.6% " "
859	3.52	8.11	88.37	12.1% " "
				4.5% " "

Borough Analyst's Annual Report.

" 317 samples were submitted, consisting of 243 milks, 12 condiments, sauces, etc., nine dried fruits, five of sugar, four of whisky, three each of butter and tea, two each of lard and rum, one each of cream and margarine, and 32 miscellaneous samples.

" The number of samples reported against as adulterated and/or non-standard was 28, comprising 27 milks and one sample of rum, the latter sample having been so broken-down as to contain 15.6 per cent. of excess water.

" For comparative purposes, the corresponding figures for the years 1933 to 1937 are tabulated below :—

Year	Number of samples analysed		Number of samples adulterated		Percentage of adulteration	
	Total	Milk	Total	Milk	Total	Milk
1933	381	345	27	27	7.0	7.8
1934	475	412	37	27	7.7	6.5
1935	346	319	17	16	4.9	5.0
1936	319	248	24	24	7.5	10.0
1937	317	243	28	27	8.8	11.1

“ It will be seen that so far as the samples of milk are concerned, there is
 “ no improvement to report on the indifferent record of the preceding year.

“ Of the 27 samples of milk reported against, 20 samples afforded evidence
 “ of the presence of extraneous water, varying in amount from 0.9 per cent.
 “ to 17.0 per cent. ; six samples were deficient in fat (Sale of Milk Regulations,
 “ 1901) to an extent varying from 5.0 per cent. to as high as 33.6 per cent.,
 “ whilst one sample showed a deficiency of non-fatty solids of 1.5 per cent.,
 “ due to its abnormal character and not to the addition of water.

“ The remainder of the milk samples were of good average quality, and all
 “ milks were free from preservatives and colouring matter.

“ All samples of jams, dry goods and condiments were of sound commercial
 “ quality, and the samples of edible fats were free from any excessive water
 “ content.

“ Apart from the one sample of rum reported against, the spirits were at
 “ least equal to the required legal strength of 35° U.P.

“ The requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food)
 “ Regulations were complied with in all samples to which they applied. Thus,
 “ apart from the milk samples, the record of the year was very good indeed.

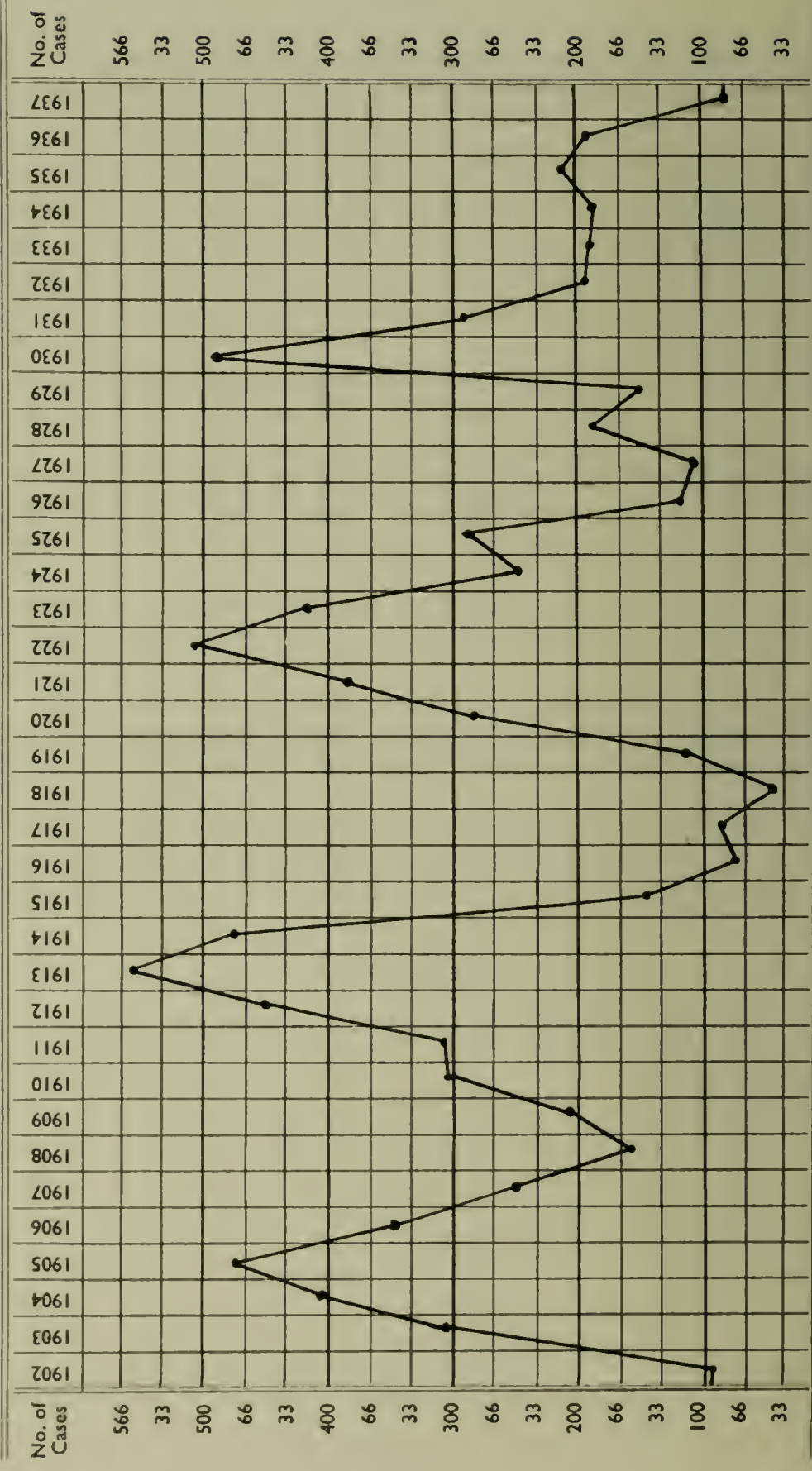
“ Appreciation has once again to be expressed of the valuable assistance
 “ and able co-operation of your Chief Inspector in carrying out the work entailed
 “ in the administration of this Act.

“ (Signed)

“ S. ERNEST MELLING,

“ Public Analyst.”

County Borough of Rochdale — Scarlet Fever Incidence — Years 1902-1937.



PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(A) INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The notifications of infectious diseases numbered 768, as against 990 in the year 1936, and an average of 1,156 during the five years 1932-36. This decrease is mainly due to the low incidence of diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox, which are not compulsorily notifiable, information of which is obtained from the various elementary schools.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, was much below the average, as will be seen from the comparative summary below :—

				Average 5 years			
				1937	1936	1932-36	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	80	...	181	...	188
Diphtheria	...	...	56	...	55	...	121
Tuberculosis	...	...	109	...	118	...	109
Pneumonia	...	...	49	...	51	...	69
*Whooping Cough	...	...	16	...	146	...	91
*Chicken-pox	...	...	160	...	98	...	139
*Measles	...	...	259	...	288	...	380
Other Diseases	...	...	39	...	53	...	59
				768	...	990	...
							1156

* Not compulsorily notifiable. Information from Reports of Head Teachers of Public Elementary Schools.

Details of age distribution and annual incidence during the past ten years are shown in Tables IV. and V., Appendix.

Marland Hospital.

The hospital continues to serve, not only Rochdale County Borough, but also the adjoining districts of Middleton, Heywood and Whitworth, by reason of an agreement as between Rochdale and the respective Authorities. As and when accommodation was available, cases were accepted from other neighbouring districts such as Chadderton and Shaw.

On December 31st, 1936, there were 43 cases in residence at Marland Hospital, and during the year under review 404 cases were admitted, as compared with 494 the preceding year. While the incidence of infectious disease in Rochdale has been low during the past year some neighbouring districts have been less favoured, with the result that 219 of the 404 cases admitted to Marland Hospital, being more than one-half, were from out-districts.

The case mortality was equal to 3.1 per cent. of the cases treated, as against 4 per cent. in the previous year. Six of the deaths registered were due to Diphtheria.

A summary of cases admitted to Hospital is given below :—

DISEASE	In Hospital on 31st December 1936	Admitted during the Year	Discharged	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of Year 1937	Average stay in Hospital of Patients Disch'rg'd — Days	Ages of Patients Admitted		
							Under 5 Years	5—15 Years	Above 15 years
Scarlet Fever ...	20	135*	135	1	19	35	35	85	15
Diphtheria ...	13	193†	171	6	29	40	31	127	35
Enteric Fever ...	1	5	6	...	...	50	1	1	3
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	...	2	1	1	...	61	1	...	1
Measles ...	...	15	14	...	1	19	10	5	...
Dysentery ...	...	3	3	...	...	16	...	1	2
Erysipelas ...	1	13	13	1	...	18	...	2	11
Puerperal Fever & Puerperal Pyrexia	1	9	8	...	2	29	...	...	9
Other Diseases ...	1	16	12	4	1	36	3	5	8
Tuberculosis ...	6	13	18	1	...	96	1	11	1
Total ...	43	404	381	14	52	...	82	237	85

* Includes 4 cases diagnosed as not suffering from Scarlet Fever (3 simple tonsillitis, 1 teething rash).

† Includes 26 cases diagnosed as not suffering from Diphtheria (24 simple tonsillitis, 1 simple laryngitis, 1 Pneumonia).

Antitoxin.

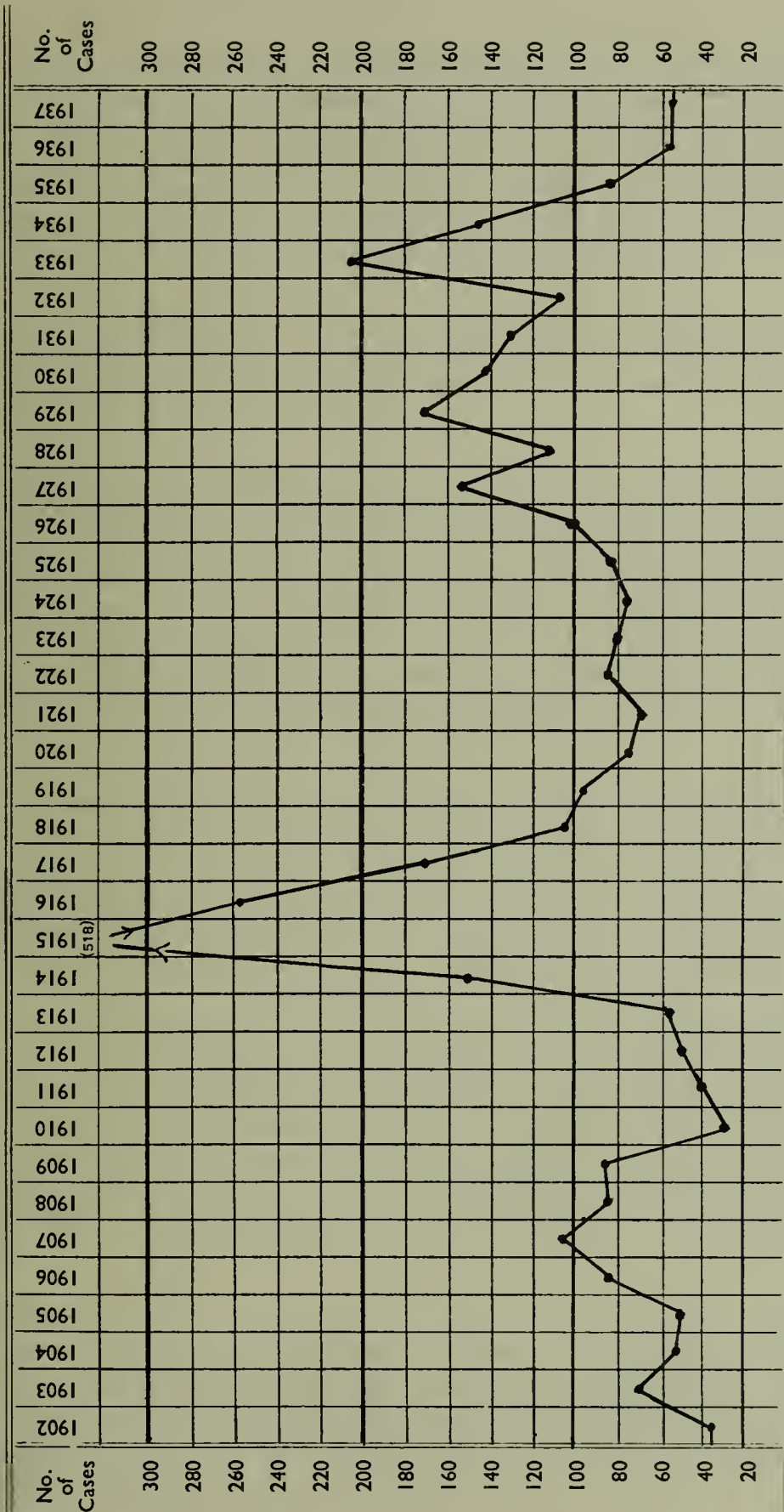
Diphtheria Antitoxin, Scarlatina, Meningococcal and Erysipelas Sera are distributed, on behalf of the Department, from the Broadfield Pathological Laboratory to medical practitioners for use within the Borough. The arrangement of distributing these sera from the Public Health Offices has been discontinued. Outside Laboratory hours supplies are available at Marland Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Since the inauguration of this scheme in 1934, 2,563 children have been immunised up to the end of the current year. This constitutes about 33 per cent. of the total number of children to whom immunisation has been offered during that period by means of individual letters or interviews. At the same time it may be said to represent only 25 per cent. of the children throughout the appropriate age groups during these four years, to whom immunisation has been offered by general propaganda. This can only be regarded as a somewhat disappointing result of four years' work.

During the year four children who had been immunised against Diphtheria were admitted to the hospital suffering from Diphtheria, and had their diagnosis of Diphtheria there confirmed. In two cases, however, the infection had occurred within one month of the last immunising dose, so that in neither of these cases had there been sufficient time for the immunity to develop. In the other two

County Borough of Rochdale — Diphtheria Incidence — 1902-1937.



cases infection occurred some $3\frac{1}{2}$ years after immunisation. In the four cases the disease was of a very mild character. On the other hand there were admitted to the hospital, as definite cases of Diphtheria, nine children in whose case immunisation had been offered and had been refused. While seven of these were mild or moderate cases, one was a severe case and one a very severe case. The average stay of the four immunised cases in the hospital was 40 days, whereas the average stay of the non-consent group was 57 days.

There has been during this period a comparatively low incidence of Diphtheria in the town, and it is very difficult, therefore, to make comparisons between the immunised and the non-immunised group, particularly in view of the small number of the former group.

During the four years 1934-37 inclusive, seven children have been admitted to hospital suffering from Diphtheria whose names appear on the immunisation register. Over the same period of time it is estimated that some 7,500 children in Rochdale have been offered, by general propaganda, this form of treatment, and in this group, taking into consideration the ages and times at which immunisation has been offered, there have been 182 cases of Diphtheria in the same four-year period. The seven cases of immunised children have all been mild infections. Infections in the non-immunised group have been of varying severity, and there have been in this group twelve deaths.

It is not suggested that these figures give an accurate representation of the benefits of immunisation to children in Rochdale, since they are in themselves crude figures and would have to be subject to further correction before being capable of bearing out any statistical proof. Subject to that comment, however, the figures are in themselves definitely suggestive of the great benefit which children in the town would derive from a complete immunisation scheme.

The bulk of the immunisation has been carried out through the elementary schools. During the current year immunisation by means of alum-precipitated toxoid by the two-shot method at a three weeks' interval has been substituted for the previous toxoid antitoxin mixture administered by the three-shot method at fortnightly intervals. This alteration is in accordance with modern scientific progress, and has at the same time simplified the work in the schools considerably. No serious effects have been noted in any of the children so treated.

Vaccination Acts.

The administrative arrangements in respect of vaccination remain as outlined in the last report. There are four Vaccination Officers, each with one or more districts of the Borough, but in view of the recent re-arrangement of the ward boundaries, it will be necessary, in the near future, to re-arrange the vaccination districts.

No vaccinations were carried out during the year by the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of the Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917.

A summary of the Vaccination Returns forwarded to the Ministry of Health for the year 1936 is given below in comparison with 1935 figures :—

Summary of the Vaccination Returns forwarded to the Ministry of Health for the year 1936, as compared with the Year 1935.

	1936		1935	
	Total	Percent- age	Total	Percent- age
Number of successful vaccinations... ..	73	11.1	81	12.5
Number insusceptible to vaccination	1	0.2	...	...
Number of exemptions	513	77.9	498	76.7
Number died unvaccinated	30	4.6	38	5.9
Number not traceable, or removed to other districts, or postponed	41	6.2	32	4.9
Total number of children born	658*	100.0	649*	100.0

* Excluding children born at Birch Hill Hospital.

These figures continue to show a high percentage of statutory exemptions from vaccination, while only 11 per cent. were successfully vaccinated.

(B) TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 109 cases of Tuberculosis—78 respiratory and 31 non-respiratory—notified, as against 118 cases the previous year and an average of 112 during the preceding five years 1931-35.

Comparative numbers of new cases of Tuberculosis notified since compulsory notification are shown below :—

Average 5 year periods	NOTIFICATIONS		
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Total
1913—17	184	108	292
1918—22	216	52	268
1923—27	85	40	125
1928—32	85	36	121
1933	91	24	115
1934	75	25	100
1935	67	27	94
1936	95	23	118
1937	78	31	109

The 109 new cases notified, together with the number of deaths resulting from the disease, are arranged in the following table, according to age, sex and type of disease :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1—5 years ..	1	2	2	2	...	...	1	1
5—15 „ ..	8	4	7	3	...	...	2	1
15—25 „ ..	9	9	4	3	3	4	1	2
25—35 „ ..	9	8	1	1	8	5	1	1
35—45 „ ..	10	1	...	2	9	3	...	1
45—55 „ ..	7	3	2	...	10	1	...	...
55—65 „ ..	3	1	1	1	6	...	1	...
65 years and over ..	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
TOTAL ..	50	28	18	13	37	13	6	8

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Three Clinic sessions are held weekly—Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon, and Friday morning—and 294 new patients (184 adults and 110 children) were examined by the Tuberculosis Officer, as compared with 337 the previous year.

The constant co-operation of the family doctor with the work of the Dispensary is shown by the fact that 57 per cent. of the patients examined during the year were referred to the Tuberculosis Officer by the general practitioner or School Medical Officer. 113, or 38 per cent., of the 294 new patients were examined as contacts. These cases are classified in table below along with comparative figures for the previous years 1935-36.

ADULTS									CHILDREN								Grand Total
PULMONARY				Non- pulmonary	NOT tuberculous	Diagnosis not completed	TOTAL	PULMONARY				Non- pulmonary	NOT tuberculous	Diagnosis not completed	TOTAL		
T.B. minus	T.B. + Groups							T.B. minus	T.B. + Groups								
	I.	II.	III.						I.	II.	III.						
	19	...	15	6	6	48	1	95	8	...	...	...	4	46	1	59	154
es	15	...	11	...	7	55	1	89	7	...	...	...	5	39	...	51	140
	34	...	26	6	13	103	2	184	15	...	...	...	9	85	1	110	294
36	36	3	31	5	11	127	1	214	8	1	...	1	12	99	2	123	337
35	24	2	27	5	18	137	...	213	8	...	1	...	8	57	1	75	288

The figures in this table show that of the 294 patients referred to (154 males and 140 females) 103, or 35 per cent., were diagnosed as suffering from some form of Tuberculosis, as compared with 32 per cent. in 1936 and 32 per cent. in 1935.

Report of the Tuberculosis Officer.

The activities of 1936 were maintained throughout the greater part of this year. Co-incident with a decrease in the incidence of respiratory catarrhal infections generally during the rather fine and fogless Autumn, there was some easing-off in the number of new cases referred to the Dispensary.

However, the actual number of new cases of Tuberculosis, definitely diagnosed and taken on the Dispensary Register for treatment and supervision, closely approximates to the average number for the previous six years.

Average for the six years

1931-1936 inclusive	...	79.5 adults	...	21.5 children
Year 1937	...	81.0 adults	...	22.0 children

This is a striking fact.

It would appear that the progressive decline in the incidence of all forms of Tuberculosis which has been evident from the beginning of the century has become arrested, and that there is now a residuum of a constant incidence in the forms of Tuberculosis.

This state of affairs is not peculiar to Rochdale but obtains throughout the country generally. Fortunately, in Rochdale, this residual incidence is comparatively low.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in detail in Table VII., Appendix, and is here briefly summarised along with corresponding figures for the previous year :—

	1937	1936
Number of New Cases examined	294	337
Total Number of Attendances of Patients	2,076	2,272
Number of Attendances of Old Cases	1,782	1,935
Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1937—Highest 27 Lowest 3)	14	15
Number of Contacts examined	113	143
Dressings and Injections carried out during the year	407	539
Home Visits and Consultations by Tuberculosis Officer Year 1937—(104 home visits and 827 letters, tele- phones, etc.)	931	787
Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses	2,153	2,079
Number of necessitous patients who have had milk granted	35	36
Number of necessitous patients who have had malt and oil granted	7	13
Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary Year 1937—(Positive 1, Negative 9, Doubtful 1)	10	7
X-Ray Examinations	122	161

X-Ray Work.

Patients requiring radiological examination are chiefly referred to Springfield Sanatorium, but, to suit the convenience of patients, cases are occasionally referred to Birch Hill Hospital. During the year 122 X-Ray examinations were made, as against 161 the previous year.

Extra Nourishment.

Grants of special nourishment in the form of milk or malt and cod liver oil are made to the non-insured persons and selected necessitous cases waiting admission to Sanatoria, or who may have received an adequate course of sanatorium treatment and may be expected to maintain or recover full working capacity. During the past year 42 patients received grants of extra nourishment :—

Milk	35 (27 adults and 8 children) ;
Malt and Oil	7 (1 adult and 6 children).

Financial and Other Assistance.

38 necessitous cases of Tuberculosis (28 adults and 10 children) were assisted in various ways during the year :—

(a) Clothing and footgear provided	27
(b) House Rent paid during residence of patient in Sanatorium	6
(c) Dentures provided	5

Residential Treatment.

There were 56 patients in residence at various Sanatoria on December 31st, 1936, and during the year 114 other patients (65 males and 49 females) were admitted, chiefly to Wolstenholme Hall and Springfield Sanatorium. At the end of the year there were 46 patients remaining in residential institutions. Details are given in the following Table :—

Institutions	In Hospital or Sanatorium on 31st Dec., 1936	Admissions			Discharged during 1936	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1937	Average stay in Hospital of Patients disch'g'd — Months
		Total	Males	Females				
Shelf Sanatorium .....	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital	18	37	37	...	27	14	14	8.1
Springfield Sanatorium	12	31	...	31	27	6	10	4.6
Marland Hospital ...	6	13	10	3	18	1	...	3.4
Stannington Sanatorium	8	11	4	7	11	...	8	13.6
Harlow Wood Hospital...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	14.9
Eastby Sanatorium ...	5	8	8	...	8	...	5	14.1
Memorial Home, Norden	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	...
Shropshire Orth. Hospital	4	7	3	4	7	...	4	7.2
Crossley Sanatorium ...	1	5	3	2	3	...	3	6.7
TOTAL ...	56	114	65	49	102	22	46	

There were 22 deaths of tubercular patients in institutions during the year.

The Springfield Sanatorium provides 36 beds for female patients, 18 of which are reserved for patients residing in the area of the Lancashire County Council. In addition to the 31 Rochdale patients admitted, as shown in the above Table, there were 44 patients admitted from the County area, making a total of 75 admissions during 1937.

Returns relating to patients treated in residential institutions as forwarded to the Ministry of Health, are reprinted in Table VI., Appendix.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

The former relates to persons engaged in the milk or dairy trade who are suffering from Tuberculosis, while the latter confers powers for the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. No occasion has arisen during the year where it has been found necessary to make use of the powers conferred by this Act and Regulation.

(C) VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Clinic premises in Baillie Street are open daily for public service, and each week there are five medical clinics, of which three are held in the evening to suit the public convenience. Intermediate treatment may be obtained daily at stipulated hours. See Clinic Time Table p.p. 16.

This clinic serves mainly Rochdale residents and those of the adjoining County districts, but persons resident in other areas may avail themselves of the clinic services and obtain treatment and advice without charge.

Patients under Treatment or Observation.

There were 674 patients (males 460, females 214) dealt with, as against 719 the preceding year ; and their residence or district of classification was Rochdale 504, Lancashire County 153, and other districts 17. These numbers include 341 new cases attending the Clinic for the first time.

The patients dealt with during the last two years are classified in summary below according to type of disease :—

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		TOTALS	
	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936
—Number of Cases on January 1st under treatment or observation	183	263	1	2	122	121	14	21	320	407
—Number of Cases removed from the Register during any previous year which returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection ...	4	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	6	2
—Number of Cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of Cases under Item 4) ...	67	41	2	...	166	170	106	91	341	302
—Number of Cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report known to have received treatment at other Centres for the same infection ...	5	1	...	1	2	6	...	...	7	8
TOTAL ...	259	306	3	3	292	298	120	112	674	719
Congenital syphilis in children under 15 years of age.	6	4	Total number of patients under treatment at end of year :—				Male Patients		194	187
							Female Patients		124	133

Returns from other districts show that 14 Rochdale patients received treatment for the first time at other Centres—Manchester 9, Salford 3, Bury 2.

Clinic Attendances.

Comparative figures of attendances by patients for irrigation, dressings, etc., are shown below :—

	Year ending December				
	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Number of patients under treatment	674	719	797	825	630
Attendances of patients :—					
(a) For individual attention of the Medical Officer	8691	8584	9142	10593	9557
(b) For intermediate treatment—					
Irrigation and Dressings ...	9299	9378	9923	11838	5388

Hospital Treatment.

Two cases of venereal disease were referred for treatment at Marland Isolation Hospital, which is approved by the Ministry of Health for the reception of cases of venereal disease requiring treatment at a residential institution.

Pathological Examinations.

The arrangement with the Broadfield Laboratory for microscopical examination for gonococci and with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for serum tests for Wassermann reaction have been continued during the year.

The number of specimens examined at the approved Laboratories and by the Medical Officer at the Centre was 1,313, as against 1,151 the previous year :—

	1937		1936
From V.D. Clinic	424	...	485
From Private Practitioners	147	...	164
From Other Sources	70	...	53
Total examined at the Laboratories	641	...	702
Examined by the Medical Officer at Treatment Centre	672	...	449
	1313	...	1151

Arsenobenzene Compounds.

There are 15 names of medical practitioners on the "approved list," and these doctors have applied for, and received, 242 doses of arsenobenzene compounds, as compared with 138 doses during 1936.

(D) DISINFECTION.

Routine disinfection of dwelling-houses, schools and public buildings has been discontinued except following diphtheria and tuberculosis, unless specially desired by the householder or doctor in charge of the particular case.

216 rooms were fumigated, and, in many cases, also sprayed with formaldehyde, chiefly on account of tuberculosis or diphtheria infection.

APPENDIX.

TABLE		Page
I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during past ten years	.. ..	64
.. II.—Causes of Death—Age and Sex Distribution	.. ..	65
.. III.—Infantile Mortality—Causes of Deaths of Children under one year of age	.. ..	66
.. IV.—Infectious Diseases—Incidence and Mortality in age groups	..	67
.. V.—Infectious Diseases—Notifications	.. ..	68
.. VI.—Tuberculosis—Return showing results of Treatment of Tuberculous Patients discharged from Residential Institutions	.. ..	69
.. VII.—Tuberculosis—Return showing the work of the Dispensary	.. ..	70
.. VIII.—Venereal Diseases—Extract from Return showing number of patients dealt with	.. ..	71
.. IX.—Birch Hill Hospital—Staffing and Accommodation	.. ..	72
.. X.—Birch Hill Hospital—Classification of accommodation for Sick and Maternity cases, and number of beds occupied	.. ..	73
.. XI.—Birch Hill Hospital—Classification of In-Patients discharged from or who died in Hospital	.. ..	74
.. XII.—Summary of Pathological and other Examinations	.. ..	75
.. XIII.—Factories and Workshops Act—Inspections	.. ..	76

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1937, and previous years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	LIVE BIRTHS			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.	
		Uncorrec'd Number	Nett		Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population	Of Non-Residents Registered in the District	Of Residents not Registered in the District	Under 1 year of age	
			Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population					Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population
1927	91,660	1052	1272	14.0	1183	13.0	54	347	111	87
1928	90,720	1006	1248	13.8	1019	11.2	60	326	94	75
1929	90,900	884	1295	14.2	1191	13.1	64	394	100	77
1930	90,900	839	1245	13.7	956	10.5	52	350	82	66
1931	91,160	797	1151	12.6	1044	11.4	51	376	76	66
1932	90,550	785	1135	12.5	962	10.6	64	375	82	72
1933	*91,340	664	1044	11.4	1038	11.4	80	413	93	89
1934	94,450	743	1170	12.4	989	10.5	80	467	91	78
1935	94,100	655	1094	11.6	913	9.7	79	477	93	85
1936	93,250	657	1096	11.8	1020	10.9	65	453	76	69
Average for years 1927-1936	91,843	808	1175	12.8	1031	11.2	65	398	90	76
1937	91,940	551	1093	11.9	990	10.8	87	512	58	53
									1364	14.9
									1415	15.4

* Estimated Population for statistical purposes only.

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE,
During Year 1937.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages									
		0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-	
ALL CAUSES	M	715	33	7	7	8	15	75	254	201	115
	F	700	25	4	3	5	17	72	199	190	185
1—Typhoid and paratyphoid Fevers	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
2—Measles	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3—Scarlet Fever	M	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—Whooping Cough	M	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—Diphtheria	M	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6—Influenza	M	33	...	...	...	...	1	7	17	4	4
	F	34	2	...	1	...	...	6	11	5	9
7—Encephalitis Lethargica	M	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
8—Cerebro-spinal Fever	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
9—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	37	...	...	...	...	3	17	16	1	...
	F	13	...	...	...	...	4	8	1	...	...
10—Other Tuberculous Diseases	M	6	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	...	...
	F	8	1	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	...
11—Syphilis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
12—General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
13—Cancer, malignant disease	M	82	...	...	...	...	...	3	36	34	9
	F	83	...	...	...	...	1	11	41	20	10
14—Diabetes	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	F	12	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	3	3
15—Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	M	33	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	15	10
	F	32	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	13	8
16—Heart Disease	M	186	...	...	...	...	...	5	70	67	44
	F	202	...	...	...	2	4	9	47	66	74
17—Aneurysm	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
18—Other Circulatory Diseases	M	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	19	13
	F	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	23	25
19—Bronchitis	M	35	...	1	...	...	...	1	13	11	9
	F	45	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	15	17
20—Pneumonia (all forms)	M	43	7	5	1	...	1	9	16	4	...
	F	32	4	1	1	1	1	5	8	6	5
21—Other Respiratory Diseases	M	7	...	...	...	1	...	1	4	...	1
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
22—Peptic Ulcer	M	13	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	3	1
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
23—Diarrhoea, etc.	M	5	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
24—Appendicitis	M	4	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
25—Cirrhosis of Liver	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
26—Other Diseases of the Liver, etc.	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	F	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	1
27—Other Digestive Diseases	M	17	1	...	1	...	1	1	7	6	...
	F	11	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	1
28—Acute & Chronic Nephritis	M	26	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	10	5
	F	25	...	...	...	...	1	2	9	9	4
29—Puerperal Sepsis	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
30—Other Puerperal Causes	F	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
31—Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc....	M	18	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32—Senility	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	F	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8
33—Suicide	M	17	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	3	3
	F	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...
34—Other Violence	M	35	...	...	...	1	5	12	9	3	5
	F	19	...	1	...	...	2	...	4	4	8
35—Other Defined Diseases	M	45	1	...	1	1	3	5	14	14	6
	F	63	1	...	1	1	1	12	23	12	12
36—Causes ill-defined or unknown	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Nett Deaths from stated causes at various
Ages under one year of age—Year 1937.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH					Total Deaths under 1 year	
	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1937	1936
Measles	1
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	1	2	2
Diphtheria
Influenza	1	...	1	2	...
Bronchitis	6
Pneumonia	4	1	5	1	11	11
Other Respiratory Diseases
Tubercular Diseases	1	...	...	1	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	2	1	...	1	4	8
Other Digestive Diseases	1	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc. ...	18	2	...	1	...	21	17
Premature Birth	13	1	...	...	...	14	23
Suffocation
Other Causes	1	1	2	7
ALL CAUSES	31	11	4	7	5	58	76

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate 1023 ; Illegitimate 70.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 54 ; Illegitimate infants 4

TABLE IV.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1937.

Disease	Total Cases Notified										\$Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.													
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45		45 to 65	65 and over	Total											
	1 year	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45		65	over	Total											
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (incl. Mem. Croup)	1	...	1	3	...	22	13	6	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	2	5	4	6	52	8	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
†Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Enceph Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
†Pneumonia	1	...	...	1	1	4	1	3	14	6	15	3	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Whooping Cough	...	...	1	1	1	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Chicken-pox	...	...	...	10	17	129	4	...	...	...	...	...	160	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Measles (Includes German Measles)	3	4	4	28	39	177	4	...	...	...	...	...	259	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	2	4	8	7	28	11	14	3	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	1	...	2	6	4	6	3	2	4	1	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	7	7	13	47	71	412	43	23	61	22	47	15	768	281	14	9	4	6	12	47	44	13	6	155	

* Not compulsorily notifiable. Information obtained chiefly through Head Teachers of Elementary Schools, and consequently only partially complete.

† The cases notified are Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, but the deaths include all forms of Pneumonia.

‡ Includes Para Typhoid Fever.

§ Including only cases sent under local authority's scheme.

|| Includes 20 cases diagnosed as Tonsillitis, Croup, etc., after admission to Hospital.

¶ Includes 2 cases diagnosed as Tonsillitis, Measles, after admission to Hospital.

TABLE V.
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
during the years 1932 to 1937.

Disease	Years					Annual Average		1937
	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1927-1931	1932-1936	
Compulsorily Notifiable—								
Small-pox ... ..	...	..	...	...	...	3.0	...	...
Scarlet Fever	190	181	176	211	181	239.2	187.8	80
Diphtheria (incl. Mem. Croup) ...	109	203	150	86	55	143.4	120.6	56
Typhoid Fever (incl. Continued Fever and Para Typhoid Fever)	5	..	1	3	1	2.6	2.0	3
Puerperal Fever	5	3	2	2	...	6.2	2.4	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	5	7	3	7	9.8	4.4	6
Erysipelas	28	40	36	42	37	29.4	36.6	25
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	1	4	...	2	1.2	1.4	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	4	...	...	...	1.4	1.0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	4	3	...	4	8.4	2.8	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	89	91	75	67	95	80.4	83.4	78
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	31	24	25	27	23	33.8	26.0	31
Malaria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	34	2	...	...	0.2	7.2	...
Acute Enceph. Lethargica ...	1	1	1	2	2	4.2	1.4	1
Pneumonia	57	130	49	57	51	75.2	68.8	49
Not Compulsorily Notifiable—								
Whooping Cough	139	23	136	10	146	93.2	90.8	16
Chicken-pox	206	82	139	168	98	226.6	138.6	160
Measles and German Measles ...	812	11	661	129	288	441.8	380.2	259
TOTAL	1683	837	1467	807	990	1399.8	1156.8	768

TABLE VI.—Ministry of Health Return showing the immediate results of treatment of definitely tuberculous patients discharged from Residential Institutions during 1937

Classification on admission to the Institution	Condition at time of discharge	Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution												Totals			Total	
		*Under 3 months but exceeding 28 days.			3-6 months			6-12 months			More than 12 months							
		M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Class T.B. minus	Quiescent ...	2	...	...	1	...	4	1	...	3	...	...	5	4	...	12	16
		Not quiescent	...	1	2	3	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	3	5	11
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	2
	Class T.B. plus Gr'p 1	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Not quiescent	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Class T.B. plus Gr'p 2	Quiescent ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
		Not quiescent	2	5	...	5	6	...	4	2	...	5	1	...	16	14	...	30
		Died in Institution	3	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	7
	Class T.B. plus Gr'p 3	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Not quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Died in Institution	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
	TOTALS pulmonary	10	9	2	11	8	7	8	3	3	6	3	5	35	23	17	75	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Bones and Joints	Quiescent ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	4	2	7
		Not quiescent	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Abdominal	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
		Not quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Organs	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
		Not quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Peripheral Glands	Quiescent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
		Not quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Died in Institution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		TOTALS non-pulmonary	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	1	2	3	2	5	6	13

Patients whose stay in residential institutions has not exceeded 28 days are not included in this table.

TABLE VIII.
VENEREAL DISEASES.

Extract from the Annual Returns showing the number of persons dealt with at the Treatment Centre during each of the five years 1933—1937.

	Y E A R				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
(1) No. of persons who were under treatment, or observation, at the commencement of the year	267	363	439	407	320
(2) No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection	5	—	2	2	6
(3) No. dealt with during the year for the first time (new cases)	357	462	356	310	341
(4) No. of persons who ceased to attend the out-patient clinic—					
(a) Before completion of treatment	31	68	60	65	57
(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure	7	28	32	24	32
(5) No. of persons transferred to other treatment centres for further treatment	21	18	22	30	26
(6) No. of persons discharged—					
(a) After completion of treatment and observation	122	156	186	185	144
(b) As not suffering from any Venereal Disease	86	116	90	95	97
(7) No. of persons under treatment, or observation, at the end of the year ..	363	439	407	320	318

TABLE IX.

Ministry of Health Return.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT OF THE SICK.

BIRCH HILL HOSPITAL.

1. County or County Borough Council of ...	...	ROCHDALE.
2. Name and situation of Institution ...	...	Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale
3. Define the area and give the population served by the Institution ...	...	Area—32,528 acres. Estimated Population—Mid. 1936 Rochdale Borough and Four adjacent County Districts ... 125,197
4. State whether Institution is : (a) an Institution or (b) a Hospital or (c) a General Hospital maintained under the Local Government Acts or the Public Health Acts	} maintained under the Poor Law Acts A General Hospital maintained under the Public Health Acts.	
5. Staffing : Medical Superintendent ...	...	JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H. (Non-resident)
Principal Medical Officer ...	...	HARRY N. CROSSLEY, M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H. (Vict.). (Resident.)
No. of other resident medical staff ...	...	Three.
No. of visiting staff ...	...	Three.
Specialised services supplied...	...	Surgery. Ophthalmic ; Obstetric ; X-Ray ; Dental, Massage, etc., as required.
No. of (a) Trained Nurses ...	...	49 (including 18 Pupil Midwives).
(b) Probationer Nurses ...	...	52
(c) Assistant Nurses ...	...	11
(d) Male Attendants ...	...	1
6. State total number of beds provided in the Institution for sick, maternity and mental cases at 31st December, 1937—		
(a) for men ...	...	211
(b) for women ...	...	194
(c) for children (under 16 years)	...	70
TOTAL ...		475

TABLE X.

Ministry of Health Return.

BIRCH HILL HOSPITAL.

CLASSIFICATION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR SICK AND MATERNITY CASES AND NUMBER OF BEDS OCCUPIED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

Classification of Wards*	Number of Wards	BEDS							
		MEN		WOMEN		CHILDREN under 16 years of age		TOTAL	
		Pro- vided (3)	Occu- pied (4)	Pro- vided (5)	Occu- pied (6)	Pro- vided (7)	Occu- pied (8)	Pro- vided (9)	Occu- pied (10)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1. Medical ...	4	48	28	30	30	...	...	78	58
2. Surgical ...	2	40	25	44	44	...	...	84	69
3. Chronic Sick—†									
Male ...	2	117	97	56	56	...	...	173	153
Female ...	1 block								
4. Children ...	6	...	...	...	...	70	57	70	57
5. Venereal ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Isolation—‡	3	6	4	6	6	...	...	12	10
8. Maternity ...	1 block	...	...	58	43	...	...	58	43
9. Mental—									
(a) Lunacy Act, 1890... ..	} at the	Accommodat	ion for	Mental Cases	is pro	vided			
I. Short Stay									
II. Long Stay									
(b) Mental Treat- ment Act, 1930... ..									
I. Voluntary									
II. Temporary									
10. Mental defectives									
11. Other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	17 plus 2 blocks	211	154	194	179	70	57	475	390

* Cots in adult wards are entered in Col. 7; children in adult wards (whether in beds or cots) in Col. 8. Cots and infants in maternity wards are excluded.

† Patients needing hospital treatment because they are suffering from some chronic disease; also aged infirm persons whose medical and nursing needs approximate to those of the chronic patients.

‡ Reserved specifically for the isolation and treatment of infectious diseases (excluding Puerperal sepsis).

TABLE XI.

Ministry of Health Return.

BIRCH HILL HOSPITAL.

Classification of In-Patients discharged from or who died in the Hospital during the year ending 31st December, 1937 :—

DISEASE GROUPS						Children (under 16 years of age)		Men and Women	
						Dis- charged	Died	Dis- charged	Died
A.	Acute infectious disease (1)	...	...	...	...	8	1	3	6
B.	Influenza (2) ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	41	13
C.	Tuberculosis—								
	Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	18	4
	Non-Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
D.	Malignant disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	49
E.	Rheumatism—								
	(1) Acute rheumatism (rheumatic fever) to- gether with sub-acute rheumatism and chorea ...	...	...	...	...	18	...	11	1
	(2) Non-articular manifestations of so-called "rheumatism" (muscular rheumatism) fibrositis, lumbago and sciatica) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	1
	(3) Chronic arthritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	3
F.	Venereal disease ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
G.	Puerperal pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
H.	Puerperal fever—								
	(a) Women confined in hospital ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	(b) Other Cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
I.	Other diseases and accidents connected with pregnancy and childbirth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119	3
J.	Mental diseases—								
	(a) Senile dementia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	(b) Other ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
K.	Senile decay (3) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	1
L.	Accidental injury or violence (4) ...	...	...	...	...	10	...	73	10
In respect of cases not included above :									
M.	Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organ	...	...	...	...	41	9	115	19
N.	" " Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	...	73	19	228	93
O.	" " Circulatory System ...	...	...	...	...	9	16	196	195
P.	" " Digestive System ...	...	...	...	...	92	10	287	32
Q.	" " Genito-urinary System ...	...	...	...	...	35	...	217	28
R.	" " Skin ...	...	...	...	...	117	1	147	4
S.	Other diseases ...	...	...	...	...	40	5	14	...
T.	Mothers and infants discharged from Maternity Wards and not included in above figures—								
	Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	759	...
	Infants ...	...	...	...	...	705	...	...	...
U.	Any persons not falling under any of the above headings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...						1152	62	2354	467

(1) Including—with the exception of Acute Primary Influenzal Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever—all generally notifiable diseases, together with Measles, German Measles, Chicken-pox, Whooping Cough and Mumps. Cases of Influenzal Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Puerperal Pyrexia, and Puerperal Fever and Acute Primary Pneumonia are recorded respectively among groups B, C, G, and H. Cases of Encephalitis lethargica are entered under Group A if acute, and under Group M if chronic.

(2) Including Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.

(3) Confined to cases and deaths in which no more specific diagnosis was practicable.

(4) Including suicides, attempted suicides, and poisoning cases.

TABLE XII.
Summary of Pathological and other Examinations, 1937.

	Medical Practi- tioners	Marland	T.B. Dispen- sary	Spring- field	Educa- tion Com- mittee	Birch Hill Hospital	TOTAL
Diphtheria Test	336	1458	...	...	17	77	1888
Sputum, T.B.	152	2	24	182	...	76	436
Urine, General examination ...	...	...	...	...	11	38	49
" T.B.	10	...	...	...	...	3	13
" ? G.C.	9	...	...	...	...	...	9
" Acid bodies ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	23	23
" Urea % ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	42	42
" Sugar % ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	36	36
" Complete examination ...	1	1	...	...	4	202	208
Blood, Complete Counts ...	1	...	2	...	4	165	172
" Cultures	2	...	...	...	...	13	15
" Sugar % ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	56	56
" Urea % ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	56	56
" Transfusions (Compati- bility test) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
" Widal's	7	2	...	...	...	18	27
Faeces, Complete examination ...	...	...	...	...	...	15	15
" ? T.B.	2	...	...	...	...	1	3
" ? Typhoid Fever	12	25	...	...	...	5	42
" ? Dysentery ... ..	...	5	...	...	...	1	6
" ? Occult Blood ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
Smears, ? G.C.	20	...	...	...	...	8	28
Pus, Complete examination ...	...	1	...	...	...	24	25
Swabs, Complete examination ...	2	7	...	1	...	98	108
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	1	9	3	...	...	21	34
" " Urea Estimation ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Test Meal Fractions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	163	163
Vaccines ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	1	3
Sections ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	128	128
Fluids ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	19	19
Urine, ? Typhoid	5	6	...	...	...	1	12
Swabs, ? G.C.	18	...	...	...	...	2	20
Blood, Van-den-Bergh ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Sputum, ? Asbestos bodies ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pus, ? T.B.	2	3	...	...	...	3	8
Parasites ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Sputum, Complete exam. ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Smears, ? Organisms ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Urine ? Lead ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Faeces, Fat estimation ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Eye cultures	1	...	...	...	...	6	7
Agglutination ? B. Abortus ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ringworm ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Inoculation G. Pigs, Pleural Fluid ? T.B. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Throat Swab ? Vincents ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	584	1521	30	184	36	1340	3695

TABLE XIII.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

(HOME OFFICE RETURN.)

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	13	6	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	489	82	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)			
TOTAL	502	88	—

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS—				
Want of cleanliness	65	65	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances.. .. .	10	10	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	2	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	9	5	—	—
Not separate for sexes	2	1	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	1	1	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Sched- ule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Trans- fer of Powers) Order, 1921.				
TOTAL	89	82	—	—
Outworkers in Unwholesome Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	—

REPORT
ON THE
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Thirtieth Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Service.

Staff.

The school medical staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also the Chief School Medical Officer, two Assistant School Medical Officers (one whole-time and one part-time), two full-time Dental Officers, four School Nurses and two Dental Attendants. A part-time Ophthalmologist and a part-time Aurist are also engaged. The clerical work of the department, hitherto done entirely by the Nurses, has recently increased to such an extent that in December, 1937, the Committee appointed a girl clerk to commence duties in January, 1938.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Education's Inspector, an additional dental officer and dental assistant were appointed in the autumn of 1937, and started duty in November, 1937. For some considerable time it had been known that the work was too much for one dental officer, and that the older children in particular were suffering. It is now possible for children of all ages to be inspected and treated. Further details of our very satisfactory new arrangements appear later in this report.

School Premises.

- (1) Eight schools have been repainted during the year, five inside and outside, two inside only, and one outside only.
- (2) Sites for playing fields in the Wardleworth and Lowerplace districts have been acquired.
- (3) A new gas-fired heating boiler has been fixed in Cronkeyshaw school.
- (4) The playgrounds have been repaired at Heybrook, Oakenrod and Lowerplace.
- (5) The roadway at the Open-Air School has been repaired and resurfaced.
- (6) Building operations have commenced at Greenbank senior school, Brimrod Senior School, and three nursery schools. All these are expected to be completed in 1938.

Schools and Scholars.

There are 31 elementary schools comprising 47 departments, in addition to one open-air school, two municipal high schools and one junior technical school.

The number of children attending day classes during the year was as follows :

Elementary Schools—

Juniors (under 5 years of age)	...	...	...	...	884
Mixed (over 5 years of age)...	...	...	...	...	9,946
Open-Air School	...	...	...	...	118
					<hr/>
					10,448
					<hr/>
Elementary Schools (Total)	...	...	...	...	10,448
High Schools ...	...	...	...	...	636
Day Commercial	...	...	...	...	53
Junior Technical	...	...	...	...	73
					<hr/>
					11,210
					<hr/>

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Elementary Schools.

The twenty-nine ordinary elementary schools have each been inspected once for routine medical inspection and the usual groups of children examined, i.e., routine cases, special cases and re-examinations.

Central Schools.

The Boys' and Girls' Central Schools have each been inspected once and all twelve year old children inspected together with special cases and re-examinations.

Secondary Schools.

The Boys' and Girls' High Schools have each been inspected once, in the Autumn as usual, and those boys and girls examined whose twelfth, fourteenth and sixteenth birthdays have occurred since the previous inspection.

The Open-Air School.

This school has been visited weekly, the doctor and nurse spending a whole session there each week. The children are weighed regularly and kept under the closest supervision with the co-operation of the Head Mistress.

Total Inspections during the year by the Medical Officer.

The number of inspections made is shown below in comparison with the figures for 1936.

				1936		1937
Routine Inspections						
at Elementary Schools	...	...	...	2,783	...	3,206
at Secondary Schools	...	...	...	303	...	286
Special Inspections	...	...	...	394	...	386
Re-inspections	...	...	...	812	...	1,084
Inspections at Open-Air School		...	...	1,723	...	2,612
Special Inspections at Clinic	...	...	...	1,723	...	2,084
Re-Inspections at Clinic	...	...	...	3,719	...	5,062
	TOTAL	...	...	12,503	...	14,720
Cases seen by Ophthalmic Surgeon	...	...	...	545	...	574

This total shows an increase of over 2,000 on the previous year's figures, practically all occurring under the heading "inspections at clinics." This is because there is now a medical officer in attendance at the clinic every morning for consultation, whereas formerly, the medical officer could only hold a clinic three times a week.

Dental Inspection.

Each elementary school has been visited twice during the year by the Dental Officer, and 7,584 inspections made.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The Medical Officer feels that there has been much benefit from the extra time she has been able to spend in schools ever since the appointment of an additional part-time Medical Officer, whose time is chiefly employed at the clinic. There are fewer children in our schools than formerly, but the greatly widened scope of the school medical service, with its ever-increasing provision of specialist services and new facilities for treatment, entails more lengthy and frequent inspections of the individual child than was formerly necessary when general advice, cleanliness inspections, refraction service and free dinners together with some small special school provision constituted practically the whole of the school medical service. It is to-day theoretically possible for the same child to visit the minor ailment and school doctor's clinic, attend a retarded class, be admitted to the Open-Air School, be referred to the orthopaedic and

aural clinics (with possibly, operative treatment from both), have a complete refraction performed and have suitable free glasses provided, and also to receive free milk and dinners at school. In addition, if he should get into trouble and be liable to be committed to an Approved School, again the school doctor examines him mentally and physically though he may be nearly eighteen years of age and have left school nearly four years previously.

Uncleanliness.

Each school was inspected three times during 1937 for cleanliness, and the school nurses made 14,234 examinations, and found 1,092 individual children not clean, or 9.9 per cent. of the total. The average number of clean children for all schools was 90 per cent.

After thirty years of assiduous and painstaking work by the school nurses, it is disappointing that even a small percentage of dirty and verminous children should be found in our schools. All verminous cases are immediately excluded until certified fit, and usually the trouble can be traced to the same few persistently dirty families, each of which can be a source of infection to a whole school during the four months which elapse between cleanliness inspections.

On the other hand, we know of families, formerly troublesome, who have never been found with dirty heads since being rehoused on council estates, and many mothers are loud in their praise of the new amenities such as hot water, baths, deep sinks and ample hanging-out space. The family of the inherently slatternly woman, however, shows no improvement on leaving a slum house, and each inspection results in the exclusion of a probably tearful child and an interview with a usually angry woman. Such anger is, unfortunately, only temporary, and is no guarantee that our modest suggestion (that the repetition of such a contretemps can most easily be avoided by sending the child to school in a clean condition) will not be ignored or forgotten.

The centre for the compulsory cleansing of dirty children has not yet been used, but the existence of the centre is occasionally a useful spur with which to encourage parents to action.

Minor Ailment Clinic.

There were 9,632 attendances at the Minor Ailment Clinic during the year, including 720 cases of impetigo, 282 cases of minor eye or ear trouble, and 1,352 small injuries such as bruises, sores and scalds. The number of individual children treated was 2,006.

DEFECTS OF THE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

For some years the large number of children suffering from morbid conditions of the ear, nose and throat has caused increasing concern. The damp

climate in the district predisposes to much catarrhal infection of the upper air passage with, only too frequently, extension to the middle ear and to the nasal sinuses, with much discomfort, disability and even invalidism. Only palliative measures by means of drops, insufflations, etc., can be undertaken at a minor ailment clinic, and, apart from this, the only form of treatment under the auspices of the school medical service has been tonsillectomy at the Infirmary. The result has been that in the large majority of these cases the conditions have been entirely untreated.

Following the appointment in 1936 of a Consulting Aurist on the Infirmary Staff, plans were prepared for an extension of our arrangements with the Infirmary, and these plans came into operation on April 16th, 1937. By this new arrangement the aurist, Dr. Cammock, examines each week at the Infirmary six children referred by the school medical officers. If operative treatment is recommended, the children are sent for as beds become vacant, and the surgeon's fee, theatre fee and patient's maintenance fee are met by the Education Authority, together with the surgeon's remuneration for his consultation clinic. In addition to this, children requiring simple tonsillectomy and removal of adenoids are referred directly to the Infirmary as before, without preliminary examination by the aurist, who, however, now performs all these operations. All these arrangements have worked satisfactorily, and during 1937 Dr. Cammock examined 158 children at his clinic ; six more were referred but did not attend.

He also operated on sixty-eight children for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, and performed twenty-three operations of a more extensive nature, including seven simple mastoidectomies, two submucous resections of the nasal septum, and fourteen operations involving the opening of one or more nasal sinuses and frequently associated with tonsillectomy and submucous resection.

These new facilities for treatment are much appreciated by parents, many of whom have themselves suffered much from nasal trouble with little or no opportunity for treatment ; and the more effective methods of treating chronic otorrhoea have already resulted in a welcome diminution in the number of children attending the morning clinic with this condition.

Tuberculosis.

There are 79 notified cases of tuberculosis among children of school age, 47 of which are pulmonary and 32 non-pulmonary. Of these :—

Sixteen are at certified special schools ;

Fifty-seven are attending ordinary elementary schools ;

Two are at other institutions ;

Four are at no school or institution.

External Eye Disease.

During 1937, 75 cases of blepharitis and conjunctivitis were treated at the school clinic, being a reduction of 27 cases on the previous year.

Defective Vision.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon has held 44 clinics during the year and has examined 574 children ; towards the end of the year an arrangement was made with the Health Committee whereby children attending the Infant Welfare Clinic, who seem likely to have some visual defect, can be examined at the School Clinic at the instance of the Child Welfare Medical Officer. Most of these children are suffering from squint, and formerly did not usually receive any treatment before they began to attend school.

It is hoped also to start orthoptic work sometime during 1938.

DENTAL REPORT.

The number of children examined by the Dental Officer was 7,584, of which 4,583 were referred for treatment.

The number actually treated at the Dental Clinic, including "Specials" was 3,175, and the work done includes 1,200 fillings and 5,710 extractions—detail particulars are given in Table IV.

Although there are no outstanding differences in the figures of inspection and treatment as compared with the previous year, there is a further increase in the number of fillings done in permanent teeth, being 1,153 this year and 1,068 last year. The number of fillings in temporary or deciduous teeth was only 47. I know that, strictly, the deciduous teeth ought to be saved, but I am faced with such a large amount of work in the permanent dentition, and so rarely come across a mouth on which it would be worth spending time filling temporary teeth that I have come to the conclusion that my efforts are put to better use by attempting to save the permanent teeth. It seems to me that the responsibility for this bad state in the deciduous teeth lies with the parent, who should be educated to give the child proper food and pay strict attention to cleanliness of the teeth. Increases in the numbers of permanent fillings naturally cause corresponding decreases in numbers of attendances owing to the necessity of more time being devoted to each child requiring this type of conservative work. This discrepancy will be further increased in the future owing to the fact that during 1938 and henceforth elementary school children of all ages, 5—14 years, will receive inspection and treatment. This is made possible by the appointment of Mr. Gledsdale, L.D.S., dental officer, and Miss Brown, dental attendant, to our existing dental staff. In the past it has only been possible to include children of 6—9 years in the routine age groups, children of other ages being treated only as "Specials." The children of 6—9 years have always presented large numbers of temporary extractions, these numbers will also be reduced with the addition of the older age groups, although this may be somewhat counterbalanced by the inclusion of the 5-year group. When the routine treatment of the older age groups becomes established there should be a considerable reduction in the number of "Specials" attending for treatment.

ALEX. C. WALKER, L.D.S.,

Dental Officer.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases have been notified among school children during 1937 :

	1936	1937
Scarlet Fever	124	63
Diphtheria	36	41
Measles	277	234
Chicken-pox	97	158
Whooping Cough	142	15
Pneumonia	4	4
Erysipelas	—	1
German Measles	—	1
Infantile Paralysis	—	2
TOTAL	680	519

Diphtheria Immunisation.

All infant and junior departments have again been circularised and visited for the purpose of immunisation against diphtheria, and though the response was a little better than formerly, it was not good. Altogether 383 children completed their injections of alum-precipitated toxoid. This constitutes only a little over 30 per cent. of those to whom immunisation was offered by means of individual letters to parents or guardians.

Work of the School Nurses.

The following is a summary of the work done by the school nurses in addition to the clerical work, which has increased very much.

Treatment at morning clinics	9,632
Cleanliness Inspections	14,234
Inspections with Medical Officer—	
at schools	6,062
at clinic	7,145
Cases seen with ophthalmic surgeon	574
Inspections at Open-Air School	2,612
Home Visits	422
	<u>40,107</u>

THE DAY OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

The school has completed another full and successful year, and although the general physical condition of our children improves from year to year there is still no lack of delicate children who benefit very much from the amenities at Brownhill. It does not, moreover, seem in the least likely that there will be a lack of applicants until the time comes, as it eventually will, when the conditions at ordinary elementary schools more nearly approximate to those at the Open-Air School.

During 1937, 123 children were discharged from the school, all in very much improved condition; they had been admitted suffering from the following defects :—

	Boys			Girls		
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Malnutrition	13	...		16		
Pre and post-tuberculosis	6	...		6		
Heart disease	2	...		1		
Nervous conditions	6	...		10		
Non-tubercular affections of the chest ...	12	...		6		
Orthopaedic defects	1	...		1		
Anaemia and debility	26	...		17		
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	66	...		57		
TOTAL				123		

As usual there were more boys in the school than girls, and it has become noticeable during recent years that the incidence of medical defect among boys generally appears to be increasing; certainly the number of boys brought to the consultation clinics is disproportionately large.

It has been a problem to obtain adequate dental treatment for some of the children attending Brownhill. Many of them are of an extremely nervous disposition, and a journey to the clinic with, possibly, a considerable wait at the end of it, sometimes reduced these children to such a state of apprehension and anxiety as to convince their parents that dental caries was by comparison a preferable condition. For this reason it is very much appreciated that one of the consulting rooms for our additional dental officer is situated on the premises of the Open-Air School, so that at the most recent dental inspection of the school, all necessary treatment was carried out with the maximum of efficiency and the minimum of discomfort. This has been a source of satisfaction to the medical officer, dental officer, teaching staff and parents alike.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

Since 1935 there has been a nursery school, originally of 40, later of 80 places, in Rochdale, supported by voluntary contributions and under the control of a Local Voluntary Committee, and in January, 1938, the school is to be taken over by the Education Authority, when a Nursery School Sub-Committee will be formed consisting of members of the original Nursery School Committee together with certain members of the Education Committee.

An outstanding event of the Education Department's year has been Mr. Samuel Turner's extremely generous offer to build and equip a number of nursery schools. After very careful consideration, sites suitable for nursery schools were procured in three districts where it is considered nursery schools are most needed. The sites are at Brimrod, adjoining Brimrod Council School, at Howard Street and at Thames Street. A school of eighty places is being built on each site, and will be completed early in 1938. The buildings have been designed by a local architect on the most modern principles, and are being built of brick and asbestos by local builders.

When these three schools are added to the existing one they will institute a very complete Nursery School Scheme for the borough. So far as can be ascertained this provision will cater for the need of such schools adequately. It is therefore apparent that much useful data on the subject of attendance can be collected in the next few years.

It is understood that the Board of Education will watch this experiment with much interest.

Speech Training Class.

This class has not yet been resumed as the number of children with defective speech is not yet considered large enough to warrant the re-forming of the class. An up-to-date list is kept of suitable cases.

The Classes for Retarded Children.

The class for retarded children at Heybrook School, opened in September, 1936, has shown such good results that in September, 1937, a similar class was started at St. Peter's junior school serving the whole of the Newbold district. This class, like the one at Heybrook, accommodates twenty children selected by Otis group tests. Many of them have some physical defect which has interfered with their education at some time, and it is amazing how rapidly such children improve in a small class where they can have a little individual tuition. To anyone who has watched retarded children in an ordinary class, uninterested and apathetic because unable to understand the work, it is a pleasure to see how, after a short time in a special class, they begin to show interest and pride in their work and how pleased they are to show what they have accomplished.

When the retarded child has to move up into a senior school his plight is of course much aggravated, so these special classes are intended for children of junior school age, in order to reduce the retardation as much as possible before the age of eleven. It is the intention of the Committee that a class shall be started during 1938 in the Oakenrod district, provided that a suitable teacher is available.

It is known that mental deficiency is due to heredity only in a small percentage of cases, but simple backwardness has always seemed to us to occur most frequently among the children of backward parents. It was especially noted, while investigating the physical condition of children attending the new retarded classes, that in several cases where the scholastic retardation could be assigned to no definite physical cause, the parents were obviously not of high mental ability, and some volunteered the information that they themselves could not read or write well and "were never any good at school."

High grade feeble-minded children can with advantage be taught in the same classes as retarded children, from whom they differ more in degree than kind, and this specialised teaching is of very great advantage to them since the shortage of places in special schools for the mentally deficient is so acute that very few can be sent to such schools. We have altogether only four children in special residential schools for the mentally defective. Even if plenty of accommodation was available, parents are usually extremely unwilling to allow their children to leave home, so that the well-behaved high-grade defective has, apart from such day-classes as we are now providing, no chance of education facilities. The few residential schools are filled with children who, in addition to being unable to benefit from ordinary elementary school education, display some antisocial tendency which would get them into trouble if they stayed at home.

Ineducable Mental Defectives.

Six boys and one girl have been notified to the Mental Deficiency Committee during 1937. Of these one was a boy of sixteen who had been in attendance at a special school for the mentally defective for some years. One of the other cases was admitted to the County Institution at Whalley.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

There has been little alteration made in the arrangements for the provision of meals except that in three cases, more convenient premises have been secured for the serving of meals than were formerly available. The total number of centres remains at twelve. Apart from the meals served at the various centres, the kitchens also supply meals for the 120 children in attendance at the Open-Air School itself, where the kitchens are situated.

During the twelve months ending December 31st, 1937, a total of 210,461 meals (dinners) have been sent out. Of these, 196,695 were provided free to an average of 793 children each day, a very slight decrease on the figures for 1936, when the average receiving free dinners was 800. Another 13,766 children paid for the dinner, an average of 101 each day, and this figure shows an increase of 41 each day on that for 1936.

Provision of Milk in Schools.

The number of bottles of milk provided free during 1937 was 174,238, and the average number of children receiving such a free bottle each day was 942. In addition many children pay for a bottle each day. Every effort is made to encourage milk-drinking in schools, both by personal persuasion and public exhortation, but there are yet many slightly undernourished children who cannot, or will not, take it because they dislike the flavour or because they say it upsets them. In some of these cases there is a true allergy present.

THE ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

During 1937, 250 new cases have been referred to Dr. Bateman at the Crippled Children's Union Clinic in Smith Street, and have benefited from the excellent facilities for treatment available for out-patients at the clinic and for in-patients at the Memorial Home. The number of attendances made at the clinic was 1,331, and in addition, 42 children were admitted to the Home. It is to be regretted that in 12 cases referred for treatment, the parents refused to allow their children to attend, since they considered the defects too slight to require attention. In the great majority of cases, however, our increasingly high standards of what constitutes good posture are readily accepted by parents, who are willing and anxious for their children to benefit from the excellent treatment and attention they receive at this clinic. Attendance is usually made twice weekly for remedial exercises and at regular intervals for examination by Dr. Bateman.

It will be seen from the accompanying table that the defect most frequently found is some slight spinal curvature, chiefly kyphotic, but this is often associated with some degree of scoliosis. The cases have been classified according to the predominating defect. Foot troubles are also fairly frequently found, chiefly among the older children who attend Central and Secondary schools. Apart from flat-foot these foot troubles consist mainly of hammer-toe, hallux valgus, and epiphysitis of the os calcis. It is to be feared that much deformity of the foot develops during the years immediately after leaving school, and also that these conditions generally remain untreated until the later stages have been reached, with acute discomfort and pain on walking.

This department continues to work in close co-operation with Dr. Bateman, whose wise counsel and never-failing consideration are deeply appreciated.

Cases referred.

Kyphosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Scoliosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Lordosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Postural defect	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Flat-foot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Other foot troubles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Injuries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Torticollis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Polio-myelitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Friedrich's ataxia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Osteo-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								<hr/>
Refusals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
								<hr/>
TOTAL								12
								<hr/>
								262
								<hr/>

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

We are again much indebted to the local Inspector of the Society for his assistance in dealing with one case of general neglect, two families of verminous and dirty children, and one case of failure to provide treatment. In each case considerable improvement followed the Inspector's visits.

The Convalescent Home at St. Annes.

During 1937, the school medical officers recommended 49 children for a holiday at the St. Annes Convalescent Home, and the valuable help given to convalescent children is much appreciated. The cases who especially benefit are those who have been suffering from infections such as pneumonia, or who have recently undergone operations.

The Moorland Home at Wardle.

Again numbers of children needing a holiday but who have not been definitely ill have been recommended to apply to the Moorland Home Committee.

The Clog Fund.

The Head Teachers' special fund for supplying clogs to necessitous children has provided 213 new pairs of clogs and has paid for repairs in three cases.

Unemployment Assistance Board.

The school medical officer wishes gratefully to acknowledge the kindly co-operation of the Unemployment Assistance Board staff in many instances which concern the health of children whose parents are unemployed. The investigators are especially helpful in bringing to our notice delicate children who are needing treatment but who have missed their medical inspection through absence from school.

Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.

In connection with this Act, 20 children and young persons have been examined for the completion of the medical certificate required in the event of their admission to Home Office Approved Schools.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.

Children of twelve years of age who wish to enter part-time employment out of school hours are medically examined before being issued with a certificate permitting such employment. Thirty-one boys and two girls were so examined during 1937, and of these one, a boy, was refused as his general health was known not to be good. The work undertaken by most of these children is the delivery of previously-ordered newspapers in the early morning and the evening.

Blind, Deaf and Epileptic Children, including other defectives.

Three are at a Blind School ;
 Eleven are at Certified Schools for the Deaf ;
 Four are at a Certified School for Epileptics ;
 Sixteen are at Certified Schools for Tuberculosis ;
 Four are at Certified Schools for Mental Defectives ;
 Five are at other Institutions for Mental Defectives ;
 One is at the Lancing Heart Home.

These children are all out of Rochdale, in schools which belong to other Authorities. At our Open-Air Day School there are 120 delicate children, and at the residential cripple school, which belongs to the Cripples' Union, there were 42 Rochdale school children admitted during 1937.

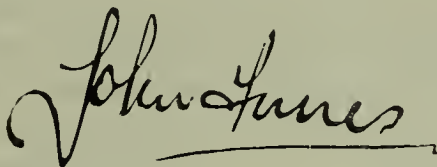
Cost of Medical Inspection.

The cost of Medical Inspection and treatment from 1st April, 1936, to March 31st, 1937, was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	1,904	14	2
Printing, Stationery and Postage	65	0	6
Drugs, materials, apparatus and spectacles	249	0	4
Hospitals, Nursing Associations, etc.	67	19	0
Travelling	11	0	3
Rent	345	4	6
Fuel, lighting and cleaning	12	18	1
Conveyance of children	89	0	6
	<hr/>		
TOTAL	£2,744	17	4
	<hr/>		
Recovered from parents	£132	3	5

I have again to acknowledge the high standard of the work performed by the staff of the School Medical Service throughout the year. Each of the additions made to the staff in this and the previous year has filled a long-felt want. All the new sections were working satisfactorily at the end of the year, and we therefore look forward to a highly successful year in 1938.

I am in particular indebted to Dr. Nora Mills for her assistance in the preparation of this Report, and to the Secretary and Staff of the Education Department for assistance in the statistical sections of the Report.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
ROCHDALE.

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

12/4/38.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections, 1st January to 31st December, 1937.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups—								Elementary
Entrants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	941
Second Age Group	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1202
Third Age Group	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1063
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3206
Number of other Routine Inspections				..	..	..	..	286
								3492

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2469
Number of Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8758
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11227

C.—CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

(excluding defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness, and Dental Diseases).

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For all other conditions recorded in Table II A.	Total individual children
Entrants	6	120	109
Second Age Group	46	198	217
Third Age Group	75	152	205
Total (Prescribed Groups) ..	127	470	531
Other Routine Inspections ..	14	24	33
Grand Total	141	494	564

TABLE II.

A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended
31st December, 1937.

Defect or Disease						Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
						No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
						Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
(1)						(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
						E.	E.	E.	E.
Skin	Ringworm—								
	Scalp					1	...	...	...
	Body					1	...	1	...
	Scabies					1	...	4	...
	Impetigo					9	...	4	...
Eye	Other Diseases (non-Tuberculous) ...					9	2	...	...
	Blepharitis					9	1	1	...
	Conjunctivitis ... ..					...	...	2	...
	Keratitis ... ..					...	...	...	...
	Corneal Opacities ... ..					...	...	...	...
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint) ...					141	37	71	15
	Squint					31	8	7	2
	Other Conditions					1	...	2	...
Ear	Defective Hearing					7	3	8	1
	Otitis Media					22	...	12	...
	Other Ear Diseases					10	2	14	...
Nose and Throat	Chronic Tonsillitis only					59	44	5	...
	Adenoids only					4	2	6	...
	Chronic Tonsillitis and Adenoids ...					26	16	12	1
	Other Conditions					58	12	31	...
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous) ...						8	2	2	...
Defective Speech ... ..						...	12	12	4
Teeth—Dental Diseases (see Table IV., Group V.)									
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease—								
	Organic					3	2	...	...
	Functional					11	11	2	1
Lungs	Anæmia					2	...	2	...
	Bronchitis ... ..					...	...	...	...
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ...						2	...	1	1

TABLE II.—(continued).

						E.	E.	E.	E.
Tuber- culosis	{	Pulmonary—							
		Definite ... ..				...	...	...	...
		Suspected ... ..				...	...	...	...
		Non-pulmonary—							
		Glands ... ..				...	...	...	1
		Bones and Joints ... ..				...	...	...	...
Nervous System	{	Skin ... ..				...	...	...	...
		Other Forms				2	...	...	...
		Epilepsy ... ..				...	...	1	...
		Chorea ... ..				...	1	...	...
		Other Conditions				3	5	5	...
Deform- ities	{	Rickets				4	3	..	...
		Spinal Curvature ... ..				...	...	...	...
		Other Forms (includi'g postural defects)				128	94	10	...
Other Defects and Diseases						59	21	44	3
TOTAL ...						597	277	259	29

TABLE II.—(continued).

B.—Classification of Nutrition.

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal)		D. (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	941	213	22.6	694	73.7	33	3.5	1	0.1
Second Age- group ...	1202	165	13.7	931	77.4	106	8.8	...	...
Third Age-group	1063	302	28.4	708	66.6	51	4.8	2	0.1
Other Routine Inspections ...	286	134	46.9	142	49.7	11	3.4	...	...
TOTAL ...	3492	814	23.3	2475	70.8	201	5.7	3	0.1

TABLE III.—Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

Nature of Defect	At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementa'y Schools	At Other Instituti'ns	At no School or Institution	TOTAL
Blindness	1	—	—	—	1
Partial Blindness ...	2	—	—	—	2
Deafness	9	—	—	—	9
Partial Deafness ...	—	2	—	—	2
Mental Defect ...	4	50	5	9	68
Epilepsy	4	—	—	2	6
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	8	37	1	1	47
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	8	20	1	3	32
Delicate Children ...	104	46	—	2	152
Crippling	27	60	1	5	92
Heart Disease ...	6	9	—	9	24

Multiple Defects—

Crippled and M.D. ...	—	1	—	—	1
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TABLE IV.

Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1937.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness, for which see Group VI).

Disease or Defect (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
SKIN—			
Ringworm—Scalp	46	...	46
Ringworm—Body	15	...	15
Scabies ... ..	...	...	...
Impetigo	720	...	720
Other skin diseases	127	...	127
MINOR EYE DEFECTS (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	75	...	75
MINOR EAR DEFECTS	207	...	207
MISCELLANEOUS (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	1352	...	1352
TOTAL	2542	...	2542

TABLE IV.—(Continued).

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

Defect or Disease (1)	Number of Defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Errors of Refractions including Squint	574	...	574
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	—	...	—
Total	574	...	574

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :—

(A) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	560
(B) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	2

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :—

(A) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	478
(B) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	2

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Number of Defects.

Received Operative Treatment												Received other forms of Treatment	Total number treated
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital				By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.				Total					
(1)				(2)				(3)				(4)	(5)
(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)	(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)	(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)		
—	—	68	23	—	—	10	—	—	—	78	23	19	120
(i.) Tonsils only.													
(ii.) Adenoids only.													
(iii.) Tonsils and Adenoids.													
(iv.) Other defects of the Nose and Throat.													

TABLE IV.—(Continued).

GROUP IV.—Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

	Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			Total Number Treated
	Residential Treatment with Education	Residential Treatment without Education	Non-residential Treatment at an Orthopædic Clinic	Residential Treatment with Education	Residential Treatment without Education	Non-Residential Treatment at an Orthopædic Clinic	
Number of Children Treated	—	—	489	42	—	—	531

TABLE IV.—(Continued).**GROUP V.—Dental Defects.**

(1) Number of Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

Routine Age Groups	{	6.....	1848	}	Open-Air School
		7.....	1944		
		8.....	1826		
		9.....	1867		
	10.....	30			
	11.....	18			
	12.....	28			
	13.....	18			
	14.....	5			
Grand Total			7584		

(b) Found to require treatment during Inspection—

—Routines	2254	/	...	...	...	...	3174
—Specials	920		...	...	...	...	3175

(c) Actually treated 3175

(2) Half-days devoted to—Inspection	..	102					
Treatment	..	320	Total	..	..	422	
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment	..	..	..	..	..	4066	
(4) Fillings—Permanent teeth	..	..	1153				
Temporary teeth	..	..	47	Total	..	..	1200
(5) Extractions—Permanent teeth	..	..	487				
Temporary teeth	..	..	5223	Total	..	..	5710
(6) Administrations of General anaesthetics for extractions	..	..	—		
(7) Other operations	..	Permanent teeth	51				
Temporary teeth	..	51	Total	..	..	102	

GROUP VI.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14234
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1092
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—								
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

TABLE V.

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937, BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY TO THE LOCAL MENTAL DEFICIENCY AUTHORITY.

Total Number of children notified 7.

Analysis of the above Total.

DIAGNOSIS	Boys	Girls
1. (i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School—		
(a) Idiots 	—	—
(b) Imbeciles 	1	—
(c) Others 	1	1
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children—		
(a) Moral defectives 	—	—
(b) Others 	3	—
2. Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16 ...	1	—
3. Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3 i.e., "special circumstances" cases 	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf 	—	—
GRAND TOTAL 	6	1

